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THE INDEPENDENT

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TODAY

FASHION



New York has
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talks to Neil
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Saddam or Clinton: who blinks first?



On the brink Saddam Hussein's decision yesterday to bar US inspectors from suspected weapons sites for the seventh day running has placed him on collision course with the Western powers

President Clinton yesterday warned of grave consequences if Iraq continues to defy the UN in refusing to allow weapons inspections by teams that include Americans. As Mary Dejevsky in Washington and Colin Brown in London report, Tony Blair signalled that Britain is ready to use Tornado jets in support of a US strike on Iraqi bases if diplomatic moves fail to get Saddam Hussein to back down.

President Clinton yesterday called on the United Nations to take "very strong and unambiguous action" to force Iraq to comply with UN weapons inspections. With the US-piloted U2 spy planes set to resume surveillance flights over Iraq today,

he also warned that any attempt by Iraq to shoot them down would "not be tolerated".

At the same time Tony Blair gave a resolute message of support to Mr Clinton. The Prime Minister made it clear in a letter to the US President that Britain would support US forces in the area in military strikes. "I have no doubt that as in the past we must stand absolutely firm and absolutely together," Mr Blair said. He will reinforce Britain's determination that Saddam Hussein should comply with UN demands in a Mansion House speech on foreign affairs tonight in London.

Leaving no doubt about Britain's support for action, Mr Blair will warn Saddam: "This Government's determination to stand firm against a still dangerous dictator is unshakable."

The US President was speaking on America's premier Sunday talk show, *Meet the Press*. The interview had been recorded the previous day, shortly after the end

of a crisis meeting of senior officials at the White House to co-ordinate the US response. Mr Clinton was cautious, however, about advocating the use of force and continued the line pursued by senior US officials in recent days of insisting that the US wanted to work through the United Nations. Asked if a military strike was necessary, he said: "I don't want to rule anything in or out. I think... at a moment like this... it's very important that the President maintain all options and signal none. And that's where I want to be."

Reflecting Washington's concern not to find itself isolated in the UN, he said that the Iraqi leader needed to understand that this was "a serious business" ... and not just for the President of the United States. He appealed to Russia, France and other members of the UN Security Council to preserve a united front in dealing with Iraq.

George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, emphasised that the diplo-

matic pressure in the UN would seek to resolve the crisis but insisted that President Saddam had alienated France and Russia, the two members of the security council who were least hostile to him. "I hope a diplomatic solution will be found and I hope that he will retreat knowing that he is conflict with security council resolutions," Mr Robertson said on Sky TV.

Ministry of Defence sources confirmed that the use of Tornado jets, which were used in the Gulf War, was among the options being studied this weekend by Cabinet ministers.

Mr Blair is keen to ensure that the US does not appear isolated. Whitehall sources insisted that action would be taken with the support of the security council members. "We are going to be firm and resolute in dealing with Saddam. We are hoping for a diplomatic solution, and we are not talking about the military option at this stage," said a Foreign Office source.

Baghdad's move to exclude Americans from taking part in UN inspection teams was widely seen as a response to a split in the UN Security Council over a US motion to stiffen sanctions against Iraq.

Yesterday, Iraq prevented American inspectors from entering suspected weapons sites for the seventh day running, and the official newspaper of the ruling Ba'ath party said that anti-aircraft systems were on alert to shoot down "any hostile target, whatever its kind and nationality". Iraq had earlier defended movements of equipment and cameras at suspected weapons sites, saying that they were precautions against a US attack. But Baghdad continued to deny that Iraq had anything to hide.

The Republican majority leader in the Senate, Trent Lott, said he thought that Congress would support unilateral US military action against Iraq, though he added that this should be an option only "if the United Nations is not willing to act".

TODAY'S NEWS

One-stop voting

One-stop shopping and voting – and all on a Sunday. The Government wants to get more people out to vote in council elections and is thinking about having polling booths in supermarkets and switching polling day from the traditional Thursday to Sunday. Page 3

Rwandan genocide

A Rwandan civic official has been charged with using rape as an instrument of genocide. Women who have been too terrified to testify are now coming forward with detailed descriptions of assaults. Page 7

Call for FI inquiry

The controversy over Labour's relationship with Formula One racing moved up a gear yesterday with calls for an official inquiry, and the revelation that a leading lobbyist for the sport has contributed to Labour funds. Page 4. Peter Mandelson defends the Government. Comment, Page 15

Raspberry faces

Some of the top names in showbusiness will be embarrassed by nominations for the Raspberry Rippla awards – the disability Oscars – for the best and worst portrayal of disabled people in the media. Page 2

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Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>

Smokers face threat of injunctions and American-style prohibition

People working in smoky bars and restaurant staff can take injunctions against their bosses, legal experts claim. Our Legal Affairs Correspondent looks at the start of a drive to ban smoking in pubs or restaurants are numbered.

Smoking is banned in all restaurants in New York and other American cities and the same could happen here.

A series of legal actions are being planned in which waiters and waitresses would sue the owners of pubs, bars and restaurants where they work for putting them at risk through passive smoking.

The campaign will be based on legal advice from a leading barrister given to Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) which says that people working in smoke-filled atmospheres,

have the right to take legal action against employers. Recent medical evidence about the dangers of passive smoking has given the anti-smoking campaign a new impetus.

In particular, employees with an above-average risk – through a heart condition or asthma – would have a "real possibility" of gaining an injunction to force the owners to fulfil statutory requirements for a safe working environment. In the next 24 hours British Airways will announce that it is banning smoking on all its remaining flights. BA has already stopped the practice on 95 per cent of its journeys but is now extending the ban to all long-haul flights.

Clive Bates, director of ASH, said the opinion of John Melville Williams QC could mark a "sea change" in the way smoking at work is viewed and could pave the way for non-smoking bars, pubs and restaurants similar to those in New York.

"This shows that for people

working in pubs and bars the protection for them is no different from anyone else. The employers have no less responsibility in law."

The legal opinion comes after medical evidence last month that families of smokers are 25 per cent more likely to suffer cancer than those of non-smokers; tangible proof of the

opinion commissioned by ASH and would be considering the scientific and medical evidence on ETS to what, if any, extra steps they needed to take. There are existing guidelines reminding employers of their duty to provide safe areas of work and urging them to adopt specific policies on smoking.

However Michael Ripley, spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association, whose members run around half of the pubs in the country,

enough government encour-

agement the 72 per cent silent majority of non-smoking adults could help force the widespread banning of smoking in most if not all public places.

It cites a recent US survey which suggested that banning smoking in bars caused no slump in trade.

The HSE said yesterday they were "examining" the legal

dangers of passive smoking which means that employers cannot plead ignorance of the dangers. Mr Bates has now written to Ministers and the Health & Safety Executive urging that the HSE issue new and tougher guidelines reflecting the hazards of what is often called environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). "That would put the official stamp of approval on it," said Mr Bates.

ASH believes that if there is enough government encour-

warned against legal challenges: "Pubs are public places and anyone going for a job in a pub must realise that people are going to be smoking. If we go in this American direction of litigation it will open the doors to people not seriously interested in working in a pub but who fancy their chances in court."

The industry was already ensuring that staff had better working conditions he said.

Tony Payne, chief executive of the Federation of Licensed Victuallers' Association, which represents up to 1,000 pub landlords, said his association had already launched a scheme encouraging members to introduce air cleaning systems in which pubs and they had reached a deal with contractors to get this work carried out.

"We take this issue seriously and we think it is important to look after our staff and customers. That's why we are doing something about it." He said the Department of Health had praised their initiative.

Anti-smoking campaigners

believe, however, that the mood in Britain like the UK, is moving towards completely non-smoking bars, pubs and restaurants. They point out that while just over a quarter of adults smoke, more than 80 per cent drink.

A possible sign of this changing culture is shown by Anand Zenz, a designer who has designed well-known London bars such as Belgo and Echoe, and who is now planning to design a bar where all smoking is prohibited. Mr Zenz said that while the ban would not be "the place's main selling point," it wanted to point the way for "similar ventures in the future. 'I want to demonstrate that you can have a lively atmosphere without choking or having to go home early because your eyes can't stand the smoke.'"



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COLUMN ONE

Raspberry Ripples on the menu for Hugh Grant and Liz Hurley

It was an idea to make the blood run cold. An ageing doctor, played by Gene Hackman, has a mission to find a cure for people paralysed by spinal injuries, and conducts experiments on homeless people dragged off the streets. Backed by a group of spinally injured people desperate for a cure, he carries out his evil work until exposed by a young, British medic, played by Hugh Grant.

But *Extreme Measures*, which was produced by Liz Hurley, made the blood boil among disability groups. Now it features in the nominations for this year's "disability Oscars" - awarded for the best and worst portrayals of disabled people in the media. The awards will embarrass some of the top names in showbusiness. Ms Hurley and Mr Grant, Walt Disney Corporation. *Blind Date* and *The Bill* have all been singled out for humiliation in the Raspberry Ripple Awards.

Extreme Measures has been nominated for the worst portrayal of disabled people in the film category of the Raspberry Ripples because it suggests that people with injuries to their spines will do anything - even commit murder - to find a cure.

The awards, first given last year, are backed by more than 100 celebrities including the actors Dame Judi Dench, Lindsay Duncan and Richard Wilson, the film-maker Sir David Putnam and Charles Denton, chairman of the Arts Film Lottery Board and former head of drama at the BBC. Organised by One in Eight, the disability pressure group, they are intended as a light-hearted dig at those who shape the media to think about how they portray the one in eight of the population who have some disability.

One of last year's winners in the "worst portrayal" category - Walt Disney for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* - is nominated again this year for the character Poacher in *101 Dalmatians*. Poacher tries to kill the puppies and his scarred face and speech impediment "reinforces the link between facial disfigurement and evil," according to One in Eight.

Disney was angered by the inclusion of *Hunchback* in last year's awards but it later emerged that more than 100 members of the British Scoliosis Society, for sufferers from curvature of the spine, had complained of increased harassment and name calling after the film was released. Alastair Burt, the former minister for disabled people, wrote to Disney to complain about the merchandising of hunchback statues and bubblebaths linked with the film, which had caused "increased intolerance", he said.

Other nominations for "worst portrayals" include Thames TV's *The Bill* for an episode in which a blind woman - played by a sighted actress who required lessons from the Royal National Institute for the Blind - is shown as the pathetic and helpless wife of a man who is murdering prostitutes.

ITV's *Blind Date* is also nominated for "the consistent absence of disabled people from the programme, reinforcing the idea of them as non-sexual." Over the years, the programme has included elderly and non-white people, but those with disabilities have yet to make an appearance.

Richard Rieser, co-ordinator of One in Eight, said film and TV producers were unthinkingly perpetuating stereotypical images of disabled people by using them as plot devices rather than as characters in their own right. "The commonest device is to portray the baddie as disabled or disabled. If they treated blacks in that way they would be slanted as racist. Programme makers should have a social responsibility about these things. We want realistic portrayals, not stereotypical images."

Of *Extreme Measures*, he said: "I was amazed that they went into it without considering the impact it would have at all. The dramatic tension was good but it showed disabled people in an appalling light."

The Raspberry Ripples - Cockney rhyming slang for cripples - are to be presented at a gala evening compered by the actor Alan Cummings on 3 December, to be shown on Channel 4. Among those nominated for best portrayals are the film *Shine*, for its sensitive account of the pianist David Helfgott's mental breakdown, *EastEnders*, for the realistic way in which the character Joe Wicks's schizophrenia was handled, and the ITV game show *Strike It Lucky* (since renamed *Strike It Rich*) for including a contestant with learning disabilities.

Ballot papers for the awards, to be returned by 19 November, can be obtained from the One in Eight Group, 78 Midway Grove, London N1 4PL. Tel 0171-254-3197.

— Jeremy Laurence

PEOPLE



Sacked: Simon Fuller (right) with the band he turned into a pop sensation

Spice Girls' ex-manager really really wants £20m

What the Spice Girls really, really wanted, it turns out, was to get rid of their Svengali, and shape the future of the band. What Simon Fuller really, really wants in return is about £20m.

The girls, some of whom had declared themselves to be admirers of Margaret Thatcher, are said to have showed some of her ruthlessness in plotting the coup against Mr Fuller, the man credited with manufacturing the band and turning them into multi-millionaires.

Now Mr Fuller, who is recuperating in Rome from back surgery, is consulting m'learned friends, and his solicitor Gerard Tyrell appears to be confident a suitable compensation package can be worked out. He said: "An announcement will be made but I don't know when. I can't say anything else at the moment. It is all in the melting pot."

"Simon's reaction is what you would expect, one of shock. It all happened very quickly. The girls decided to do it, and they did."

The girls were also moving fast in organising their future. They are reported to have approached First Avenue Management whose clients include singers Louise, Dina Carroll and Michelle Gayle.

The split is said to have been sparked by a high-

ly combustible cocktail of sex, money and ambition. Mr Fuller is said to have become close to Emma Bunton, "Baby Spice", who took a holiday with him in St Tropez in August. This is believed to have displeased the rest of the group, particularly "Ginger Spice" (Geri Halliwell) and "Scary Spice" (Mel Brown).

Sex, or the absence of it, due to the band's workload and the possibility of a life abroad as tax exiles, was also a topic raised with Mr Fuller by the girls. It is said that "Posh Spice" Victoria Adams feared that living abroad would lead to her being ditched by Manchester United footballer David Beckham. Scary Spice feared her Icelandic lover Fjolnir Thorgeirsson would ditch her if they were forced to live apart for six months, and Ginger Spice recently complained that the band's busy schedule has meant she has not had sex for a year.

Then there is money and ambition. Since the release of their first single, *Wannabe*, in July 1996, the group has made an estimated £30m. But the latest figures show their popularity may now be dissipating. The first-day sales of their new album was a comparatively modest 55,000, while in the USA *Spice Up Your Life* is only no 27 in the charts.

— Kim Sengupta

Oi! Enfield! Mandy forgives you! Prize for BBC reporter

It began with a party at Downing Street when Harry Enfield imbibed a couple of glasses of champagne more than he should have done and told Tony Blair that he should sack Peter Mandelson.

What ensued was an exchange of letters - effusive even by the standards of Labour's luvvies.

Admitting he was drunk, Enfield then sent an abject apology to the Minister of the Dome who replied graciously that he thought the comedian was in character.

In a letter to Benjamin Wegg-Prosser, the minister's aide, Enfield said: "There is nothing like a glass of champagne or three on an empty stomach to make a chap happy and boisterous and it was thus fortified that I volunteered to lead a small troop of party goers in search of the Prime Minister."

But before he could find Tony Blair, the comedian came across the spin doctor and hurled abuse at him. "You're ghastly! Nobody likes you. You should resign," he



declared before moving off in search of Mr Blair, who he proceeded to tell to sack his aide.

Mr Mandelson's reply to Enfield's apology was unruffled: "Oi Harry! It's OK. Ghastly is one of the politest things I've been called. I just thought you were in Tory Boy character. You're by no means the first person to call for me to be sacked and I somehow think you won't be the last."

More to the point, will it be Enfield's last invitation to Downing Street.

A BBC news producer who was beaten and threatened with execution while he covered the conflict in Zaire has been awarded a top journalism prize.

Johannesburg-based Martin Turner won The Mohammed Amin Award for his "courage and commitment" in reporting from the war zone earlier this year.

The award, created by News World in association with Reuters, is presented to the person who has made the most outstanding contribution to broadcast journalism. Mohammed Amin, a Reuters cameraman who took the first pictures of the Ethiopian famine in 1984, was killed last year in the Ethiopian Airline hijack disaster. Patrick Stoddart, chairman of the News World conference of news gatherers, told Saturday's award ceremony in Berlin: "I am delighted to nominate Martin Turner, who won in the face of extremely tough competition."

UPDATE

TRANSPORT

One car for every 2.2 Britons

Britain is still falling slightly behind other leading European countries in terms of car usage, according to figures published today. The UK has one car for every 2.3 people, compared with the EU average of one for every 2.2 people.

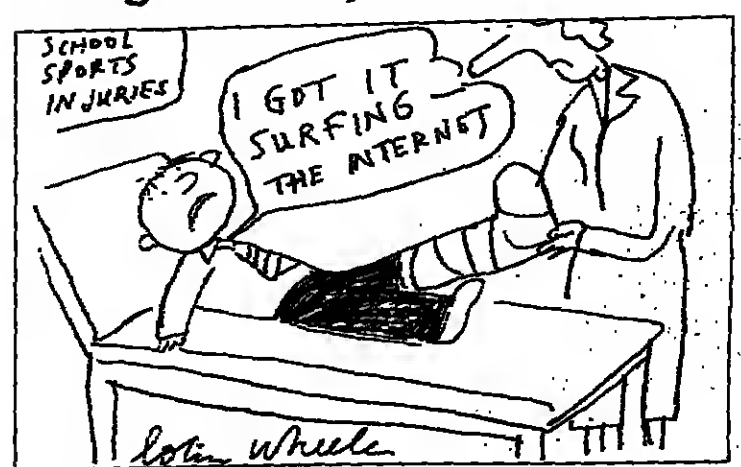
Excepting Luxembourg (one to 1.8), Italy has the most cars - with one for every 1.9 of the population. Other high car usage countries are Germany with one car for every 2.0 people, France (one to 2.2) and Austria (one to 2.2). The overall European average, including non-EU countries is one car for every 4.0 people - the average being lowered by the countries forming the old Soviet Union (one to 16.0) and Turkey (one to 18.6).

Elsewhere, the US has one car for every 2.0 people while Canada can boast a one to 2.1 ratio. Cars are scarcest in Bangladesh (one for every 2,250 people), Burma (one to 1,518) and Ethiopia (one to 1,127).

The figures are revealed in the 1997 *World Automotive Statistics* from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

HEALTH

Young risk computer injury



Schoolchildren are increasingly at risk from work-related disorders such as Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI), a conference will be told this week. Classrooms could become "minefields" for young victims if they are not made aware of the potential dangers of working with new technology, it will be claimed.

The warning will be made by the Body Action Campaign, a charity group which aims to teach children how to use their bodies properly, at a conference at the TUC in London tomorrow. "Many teenagers have already been diagnosed with chronic pain problems and some are even having to give up their studies because the pain makes studying impossible," said a campaign official. "The potential effect on children as computers become a significant feature of their early development is almost too frightening to imagine," said the official.

The TUC estimates that 5.5 million working days are lost every year to upper limb disorders such as RSI and more than 100,000 new medical cases are being reported each year.

TOURISM

Strong pound hits UK tourism

The strong pound is set to hit the number of overseas visitors coming to Britain for months to come, according to a senior tourism official. Foreign tourists to the UK totalled 2.92 million in August 1997 - down 3 per cent on the August 1996 figure.

And 1998 is unlikely to show any improvement, said Richard Tobias, chief executive of the British Incoming Tour Operators Association. "There's no doubt that exchange rates are to blame for the fall, with visitors from western Europe particularly badly affected," he said. "The one determining factor with tourism is cost. I can't see the pound weakening very much next year, so numbers are unlikely to rise in 1998."

Britain is currently fifth in the world list for the number of incoming visitors, lying ahead of China and behind France, the USA, Italy and Spain.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.34	Italy (lira)	2,775
Austria (schillings)	19.77	Japan (yen)	206.8
Belgium (francs)	58.18	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.31	Netherlands (guilders)	3.17
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.57
Denmark (kroner)	10.82	Portugal (escudos)	286.1
France (francs)	9.42	Spain (pesetas)	236.9
Germany (marks)	2.82	Sweden (kroner)	12.37
Greece (drachmes)	447.6	Switzerland (francs)	2.31
Hong Kong (\$)	12.69	Turkey (lira)	297,883
Ireland (punts)	1.08	USA (\$)	1.65

Source: Thomas Cook
Rates for information purposes only

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by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman 7.30 FOR 8

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3/LEADING STORIES

THE INDEPENDENT
MONDAY
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Shopping for votes in the supermarket

Voters could be allowed to cast their votes for local elections in supermarkets in the future. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says ministers will also be raising the idea of Sunday polling, and elected mayors in town halls all over Britain.

Voting in supermarkets is one of the novel ideas which will be raised this week by Hilary Armstrong, the minister for local government, as part of a radical strategy for reviving interest in our town halls. The idea of opening polling booths by the check-out with the groceries may ap-

pall traditionalists, and it could alarm the town hall returning officers, but Ms Armstrong believes the time has come for some fresh thinking. "If you have a good register of voters, and you can be certain about identification, with proper safeguards, why not allow voting in supermarkets?" she said. "There is no need to say that you can only vote at a polling station."

The Government is also opening the way to allow mayors to be directly elected all over Britain. It is backing a Private Member's Bill by Lord Hunt, a Liberal Democrat peer, to allow local authorities to hold direct elections for mayors, with a possible "cabinet" of local councillors.

The Bill, to be introduced in the House of Lords, would also allow councils to submit plans for indirectly elected mayors; the

pilot schemes would have to be approved by John Prescott, Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions.

It came as speculation grew that Chris Patten, the former Governor of Hong Kong, could win the support of the Tory leadership to run as the Tory candidate for an elected Mayor of London, following a referendum next year. Lord Parkinson, Tory party chairman, said he was "intrigued" by the idea, and refused to rule out the possibility that Mr Patten could be the Tories' preferred choice against Lord Archer.

When Ms Armstrong arrives in Leeds on Wednesday for the first of 10 regional seminars on local government, she will come brimming with ideas for town hall reforms. A rolling register to allow voters to join at any time in the year, coupled with

new checks on identity, possibly using an electronic based register, could allow supermarket polling stations to work. That could allow voters to use swipe cards to prove their identities before casting their votes.

Sunday voting may also upset the Sunday Observance Society, but Sunday shopping is now an accepted part of life for many families, who could be attracted by the idea.

She believes that allowing local elections to be held at weekends could mean more people can take the time to cast their votes. The elections could be held on different days in different towns, to suit local circumstances, such as market days. "Why should local elections always be held on Thursdays?" she added.

Ms Armstrong has set herself the task

of winning back the 2 million people who removed themselves from the voting register rather than pay the poll tax under the Thatcher government. But her other goal is to turn local government's focus back on the people it serves, and away from a dependence on central government. She is keen to promote her discussions through video conferencing with councillors following the publication of consultation papers leading up to a White Paper next spring.

The Government is keeping Tory rate-capping powers for next year, pending reforms, but will be "tweaking" the allocations to be announced on 2 December. It could lead to Labour authorities in deprived areas getting more, while "richer" flagship Tory boroughs, such as Wandsworth, which did well under the Tories, lose out.

IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

EYE



Our woman confesses to Fr Ted

EYE



24 hours in the life of the BBC's News 24

HEALTH

Patient v Doctor. What happens when the going gets impossible

Woodward family joins forces to lobby for early release

Louise Woodward's supporters crammed into their local pub again yesterday to watch a message broadcast by her parents. Esther Leach was with them as they learned that the nanny will appeal if her conviction is reduced to manslaughter.

Jim and Joyce Woodward wept openly as they joined campaigners who crammed into their local pub to watch a personal message broadcast by the parents of 19-year-old Louise Woodward.

They have not seen their son Gary and his wife Sue since April when they left for Boston to be close to their daughter who faces 15 years in prison for the murder of nine-month-old Matthew Eappen.

The crowd at the Rigger pub in Elton, Cheshire, the centre of the Justice For Louise campaign, cheered and clapped as they heard the Woodward's vow to bring their daughter home.

"She does not belong in America, she has not done anything wrong," said Louise's mother.

Supporters heard that the couple had been "overwhelmed" by the campaigners' efforts.

Mr Woodward said: "It is nice to know you are behind us and it gives us a bit of strength and helps Louise. We get information and we give it to

Louise when we visit her every day. It gives her a lift. It is nice to know you are not on your own."

His wife added: "All we can say is thank you to everybody all over the country and all over the world, for supporting Louise."

The campaign has now raised more than £500,000 and its workers, some who have travelled to Boston to be with the Woodward's, are receiving messages and donations from all around the world.

Today they will begin their watch on the Internet, taking it in turns to scan for news of a decision from Judge Hiller Zobel. He has to decide whether to free Woodward, order a retrial, reduce the second degree murder conviction or let it stand. Her lawyers said yesterday she will appeal even if her conviction is reduced to manslaughter.

Her defence attorney, Harvey Silverglate, said her lawyers had become convinced of her innocence after "pounding on her" repeatedly to try to get some explanation as to how Matthew had come by his injuries.

Woodward told them she had no idea how the baby had been hurt and that she had not been responsible.

The prosecution would also have the right to appeal against whatever decision Judge Zobel makes.

Earlier Vicky Woodward, Louise's sister, stood surrounded by members of her family. They travelled from Liverpool to be with her, comfort her and encourage her as she waits for news of her sister's



Close knit: Vicky Woodward, Louise's sister, with their grandparents in her home village of Elton yesterday

Photograph: Peter Byrne

fate. Sometimes the emotion was too great for the 18-year-old psychology student and tears filled her eyes but she declared her faith in her sister's innocence.

"I know it will be okay," she said. "We can offer all our love and support. She knows it's there but I think she must be feeling lonely because at the end of the day she is the one who is locked away in a cell."

Vicky has not seen her mother since June or her father for about a month, but they talk or send messages daily.

She rarely visits The Rigger pub because she cannot cope

with the intense emotion she feels when people talk to her about her sister.

In the lounge about a dozen or so members of the family talked about the mutual support they give each other. But there was feeling too for the Eappen family who have lost their son.

"We are parents too and we grieve for the Eappen family," said Joyce Woodward.

"No one's to blame," said Graham Boyes, a cousin with children of his own. "There doesn't have to be someone to blame. If you knew Louise as we do you'd know she could not hurt anyone."

Co-op sets out to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth

The Co-Op is to scrap misleading food labels in a drive for honesty. Louise Jury looks at the tricks of the food manufacturing trade which are coming under fire.

Nothing at Co-Op will be "wholesome" or "premium" from now on, as the supermarket goes for honesty as the best policy.

Meaningless adjectives will be abandoned in favour of labels which actually tell you what is inside. Pictures on the packet will be mouth-watering only if the food is exactly that.

In a report, *The Lie of the Label*, published today, the supermarket identifies "seven deadly sins" - routine tricks of the trade committed by manufacturers. It argues that regulations covering labelling are not strict enough and presents a set of guidelines for "openness and honesty".

Criticism is levelled at poor labelling, such as a product called "mince and onions" where the main ingredient is mechanically recovered chicken. The report highlights how nutritional information such as "90 per cent fat-free" disguises

IN BAD TASTE

Examples of what Co-Op is objecting to:

- Digestive biscuits described as "reduced fat" simply meaning 25 per cent less fat than something similar.
- "Traditional lemonade" unless it really is made for at

least two generations by the same process.

- "Haddock fillets" made up of blocks of fish, not single fillets.
- Pasta described as "free from preservatives" when that is normal, not a virtue. Dried pasta is not permitted by law to contain preservatives.

isting rules and regulations, the report claims there are lots of different ways of obeying the letter of the law while failing to live up to the spirit of the legislation.

It suggests that its code of practice should be enforced by the Government's new Food Standards Agency when it starts operating and the Co-Op wants to discuss the idea with other retailers and manufacturers.

Among the "tricks" the Co-Op describes are:

- The grand illusion - labels that do not tell the whole truth on the front of the pack. If you look at the back, the information makes you realise the product is not what you thought by looking at it.
- The half truth - labels that tell you on the front what is not in the product instead of what is. Examples include "reduced fat" or "low fat";

● Weasel words - labels that use a word that makes the product sound better than it is. Examples include using the word steak, as in "fish steak" when they mean portion;

● The hidden truth - labels where important legally-required information is hidden away where it is difficult to see. Examples include the name of any sweeteners used;

● The small print - where you need a magnifying glass to read everything apart from the "hard sell" the manufacturer wants you to see.

However, a spokeswoman for the Food and Drink Federation said the vast majority of the food industry was responsible and it was wrong to suggest that food labelling was not governed by strict regulation already. "Labels are subject to stringent controls and manufacturers voluntarily include more information on labels because it's what consumers want," she said.

"Inevitably there are some rogues and we are as keen as any one to stamp out unethical practices."

Jeff Rooker, the food safety minister, said the Government wanted better, clear labels that gave consumers as much information as possible, and that some changes in labelling were already under way.

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Tobacco sleaze allegations throw Labour on the defensive

The controversy over the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from a ban on tobacco advertising grew with Paddy Ashdown demanding an investigation. Kim Sengupta and Colin Brown examine the Government's attempts to fend off allegations of sleaze

Allegations of sleaze have inflicted the first scratch on the shiny teflon premiership of Tony Blair. The row over Formula One and

tobacco sponsorship moved up another gear yesterday with the Liberal Democrat leader's demand that the Parliamentary standards watchdog investigate financial links between senior figures in motor racing and the Labour Party.

It came after revelations that a leading lobbyist for Formula One fighting a ban on tobacco sponsorship, Max Mosley, was a member of the Labour-supporting Thousand Club, and had donated "between £1,000 to £5,000" to the party coffers. There was also uncorroborated reports that Bernie Ecclestone, owner of Formula One Holdings, the television company which

owns the rights to the sport, had paid money into a "blind trust" funding Mr Blair's office in opposition. A third leading figure in the sport, David Ward was a once a researcher for the deceased Labour leader John Smith.

If anyone had any doubts about how seriously Labour was taking this, the Prime Minister's closest adviser, Peter Mandelson, himself intervenes in the affair with an article in this newspaper today.

Mr Mandelson maintains that Formula One is in a unique position with tobacco sponsorship representing 90 per cent of all the industry's sponsorship. A ban would have

led to the sport moving to the Far East. He said: "We decided therefore that we would take the best practical step to secure our objectives. The EU directive on this simply will not work. We are pursuing actions that will."

For the Tories, this was the first real scent of blood after five months of frustration. But it was Paddy Ashdown who took the lead yesterday in demanding an official inquiry by Lord Nolan's committee on standards in public life.

The Liberal Democrat leader said on LWT's Jonathan Dimbleby Programme: "This is a serious issue... the core question is: what are the facts behind this? There is

now a mechanism for getting that out. It's the Nolan mechanism."

John Redwood, the Tory industry spokesman, said: "Why have they broken their promise? They clearly stated they were going to rule out this sponsorship... they haven't and we want to know why. Then we want to know whether all sports had equal access to [ministers]... I'm not making any specific allegations about individuals... but we do need to know how they came to this decision, who influenced whom and why, and did everybody have a fair crack of the whip?"

Mr Blair was dragged into the row yes-

terday after claims that it was his decision to exempt Formula One from the ban on tobacco sponsorship. Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, whose husband, David Mills, was a legal adviser and former director of the Formula One company, Benetton Formula, had in fact wanted the sport included in a sponsorship ban.

According to Labour sources, Mr Blair's decision on exemption was guided by a meeting on 16 October at Downing Street with Mr Mosley, president of the Fédération Internationale d'Automobile, and Mr Ward, director-general of the organisation and Mr Ecclestone.

Twin brother of murder victim found hanged



The twin brother of a teenager kicked to death while defending his father from bullies has been found hanged, Louise Jury explains that Ian Erskine, who left a suicide note, never recovered from his brother's brutal killing.

The body of Ian Erskine was found hanged a mile from his home almost exactly a year after two youths were jailed for the murder of his brother, Anthony.

Warwickshire police said Mr Erskine, 21, was found in woods near Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, on Saturday morning by a couple walking their dog. A police search was already underway after his family reported him missing on Friday night.

Speaking at the family's home on the Clopton Estate in Stratford yesterday, an aunt said he had never got over the murder.

Anthony was punched and kicked to death in January last year when he attempted to protect his father against thugs who had been intimidating the family for years. The aunt, who did not want to be named, said: "They were twins and they were close... what more is there to say?"

"Ian never really got over his brother's death and his mother has now lost two sons. The family are very upset, as you might ex-

pect, and they just want to be left alone to grieve."

Mr Erskine's parents, Harry and Dorothy, called the police shortly before 11pm on Friday when they realised he was missing. Officers immediately launched a fruitless search of the cemetery where Anthony is buried and of nearby woods.

His disappearance came a year and six days after Mark Hemmens, then 20, and Damian Collins, 16, were convicted of Anthony's murder by a majority verdict.

A judge at Birmingham Crown Court sentenced Hemmens to life imprisonment and ordered Collins to be detained indefinitely. The youths had continued to punch and kick Anthony in the front garden of his home even after the 19-year-old had lost consciousness. He drowned in his own blood.

Harry Erskine told the jury he could not believe what he was watching and found himself frozen to the spot during the attack.

Speaking at the end of the trial, Mrs Erskine, now 48, had spoken of her fears for the future. "This is not the end but another chapter in a terrible nightmare," she said.

"We cannot look forward to the future with any confidence. There have been threats since my son died. The harassment has not stopped." She said Ian had been told: "You will be dead. Your face will look like your brother's."



Ian Erskine, who was found hanged on Saturday, a year after his brother, Anthony, was kicked to death. Relatives said the twins, seen together top left, were very close. Photograph: PA

Headmaster's killer appeals against murder conviction

The teenage gang leader who stabbed to death the London headmaster Philip Lawrence outside his school nearly two years ago is appealing against his conviction today. Learco Chindamo, 17, was ordered to be detained indefinitely after a jury at the Old Bailey found him guilty of the murder.

Chindamo, who was 15 when he knifed Mr Lawrence, puncturing his lung and piercing his heart, was a member of the Wo-Sing-Wo gang, which aspired to be the juvenile equivalent of the Triads. Just days before the murder, he was named in court as an accomplice in the near fatal knife attack on the husband of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Dame Barbara Mills.

On 8 December 1995, up to 12 youths in the gang led by Chindamo went to St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale, west London, to attack a boy who had quarrelled with a pupil of Filipino origin. When Mr Lawrence tried to protect one of his pupils he was punched and stabbed by Chindamo and died the same evening. The killing shocked the country and focused attention on violence in schools and the safety of teachers. It led to an amnesty on knives and new restrictions on their sale.

Counterfeiting's costly threat

An international anti-counterfeiting agency with "draconian powers" should be created to stamp out the world-wide trade in fake branded goods, according to a leading jeweller. Stuart Laing, a director of the international watch-making authority the Association Interprofessionnelle de la Haute Horlogerie (AIHH), said yesterday that the counterfeiting problem had grown to "enormous proportions" and was a major activity of crime cartels such as the Mafia and Chinese Triads.

Counterfeiting cost reputable manufacturers and dealers, put money into the hands of criminals who would use it for other activities such as drug deals, and damaged consumer confidence in the quality of goods, he said.

Mr Laing, who also heads Laing the Jeweller - the oldest chain of jewellers in Scotland - and Parkhouse and Wyatt of Southampton, went on: "The reason I am saying this is that the public should be made aware that their money is going into the pockets of very unsavoury types. This is an international trade, money raised from it could be used to finance major drug deals."

PC injured in hammer attack

A policeman from the same unit as the murdered constable Nina McKay was in hospital yesterday after being beaten unconscious with a claw hammer during a house siege. The 36-year-old constable's life was probably saved by the hard hat he was wearing, Scotland Yard said. He was also wearing his protective Met Vest, the light body armour worn under clothes that is due to replace the heavier external armour which PC McKay had removed on the day she was stabbed to death.

Officers were called to a block of flats in east London early yesterday when a man wielding a hammer began smashing windows and throwing furniture into the street. Members of the Territorial Support Group (TSG) forced their way into the flat, but the man broke through their shield wall and hit one of the head with the hammer before jumping off the balcony. The man, believed to be in his thirties, was arrested and taken to Limehouse police station, where he was charged with attempted murder.

Jewellery stolen from car

Jewellery worth about £40,000 was stolen from a car parked outside a superstore. The jewellery, which was packed in cases, was left in a Vauxhall Astra estate in the car park of a tesco store in Whitstable, Kent, on Saturday afternoon. Police said two men were seen leaving the area in another Vauxhall car which had been stolen from Canterbury earlier in the day. The car was later found abandoned in a nearby street.

£14m lottery rollover jackpot

Punters will play for an estimated £14m National Lottery rollover jackpot on Wednesday after no one won Saturday night's £8.3m top prize, organisers Camelot said. The winning numbers were 5, 24, 34, 37, 40, and 48. The bonus ball was 33.

Traditionalists prepare for schism over female priests

Traditionalists in the Church of England are planning their breakaway.

As tomorrow marks the fifth anniversary of the decision to allow women priests, Louise Jury finds that many clergy and laity believe that a split is now inevitable.

The traditionalist Forward in Faith movement is investigating how it could organise and finance an independent Anglican church. A report to be presented to its council next month will outline the practicalities involved in what would be the most serious schism since the Methodists broke away 200 years ago.

Opponents of women's ordination claim increasing liberalism of the church under George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the in-

evitability of women bishops - an issue currently on hold - are making their position increasingly untenable.

One Forward in Faith supporter, the Rev John Hawthorne, said they were working towards establishing "alternative arrangements" to the present uneasy situation by the turn of the century.

"Nothing has been decided," he said. "But we're talking about further ways of ensuring that traditionalists still have a church they can go to."

The Rev Geoffrey Kirk, the movement's secretary, said the current compromise, where the traditionalists have their own "flying" bishops appointed to minister to those who objected to women priests, could not work once women became bishops. That is likely by about 2005.

The rebels believe they might be entitled to a share in the Church of England's buildings and funds.

Christina Rees, chair of Women and the Church (Watch), which supports

women priests, said Forward in Faith had been active in spreading its message that it was the authentic Church of England but that was "nonsense".

"The decision [on women] was made after 20 years' proper debate. In practical terms, can you have a church which goes on allowing this dual view towards women that inevitably discriminates against women? They have now said that they do not accept the authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the House of Bishops and the Syn-

od. They have got to go."

William Oddie, an Anglican priest who converted to Catholicism, predicts a split in the Church of England in a book, *The Roman Option*, which is published tomorrow.

He said it had been inevitable from the moment that they allowed those opposed to women's ordinations to have their own bishops. "They had the means to set up a church within a church. They have... basically cut off all communication with the rest of the church."

DAILY POEM

Street Scene

by Patricia Beer

"What are you all waiting here for?" she said
Coming round the corner with her shopping.

The gates to the Underground were shut
And steel blinds crept carefully down
The windows of jewellers' shops,
Guillotines in slow motion.

She was expecting a princess with a child or two
But death was waiting in a piece of left luggage.

Ruritanian uniforms ran
Between one vehicle and another.
The excitement set off an alarm in the bank.
"Move along there!"
Shouted the more familiar police.

But we waited.
For death or a princess to come out into the open.

This poem comes from Patricia Beer's new collection, *Autumn*. It is published by Carcanet Press (£6.95), which also publishes her *Collected Poems*.

Smith calls for tougher code of newspaper conduct

The newspaper industry should introduce an even tougher code of conduct than that agreed by editors in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Chris Smith said yesterday. The tighter code could include formal arrangements for newspapers to interview the victims of crime on a "pooled" basis.

He also tentatively floated the idea that victims of press intrusion should be allowed to claim compensation from media organisations.

But Mr Smith reiterated his faith in the principle of self-regulation, saying he saw no case for privacy legislation. He welcomed the voluntary strengthening of the Press Complaints

Commission's code of practice following the death of Diana in August.

Reforms include banning publication of pictures obtained illegally, or through persistent pursuit or "stalking", expanding the code's definition of private property, extending the definition of what constitutes a private life, and several other measures.

But Mr Smith, who first aired his views at a meeting of the Islington Victim Support scheme in north London, said he believed that the code needed further revision in some areas.

"I did say that the Code of Practice under the self-regulatory system needed to be strengthened in due course," he said.

"On the Code of Practice, we have already got the proposals that Lord Wakeham [PCC chairman] has brought forward strengthening the code. I made the point, a point I have made to Lord Wakeham, that once that is established, I believe there's a case for further strengthening."

His principal concern, he said, was for the victims of crime. "I'm particularly concerned that the victims of crime are better protected. Victims have become people of public interest through no fault or desire of their own - quite the contrary."

"Reporting them, seeking pictures, seeking interviews, that needs to be done with sensitivity."

'Failing' schools return to fold after shock therapy

Most of the 18 schools named as failing by the Government earlier in the year have made such good progress that they will escape closure, ministers are expected to announce today.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, will argue that his policy of naming and shaming schools, before sending in help squads of advisers, has succeeded.

His decision to name the schools was attacked fiercely by teacher unions who said that public humiliation was not the best way to improve education.

One school on the list, Handsworth Wood Boys' School in Birmingham, is to be closed but not because of the Government's policy. The local

authority had already taken the decision to close it before the 18 schools were named in May. It is scheduled to shut down at the end of this school year in July.

At least one other school, Blakelaw, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is expected to close but to be given a fresh start by the local authority in line with Government policy.

Mr Blunkett, who will make today's announcement alongside Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has said that he wants persistently failing schools to be shut and reopened with a new head, a new name, some new staff and possibly some new governors.

The education bill to be introduced shortly in Parliament

will give ministers power to order schools to make a fresh start. At present it is up to local authorities to decide whether schools should close or have a fresh start.

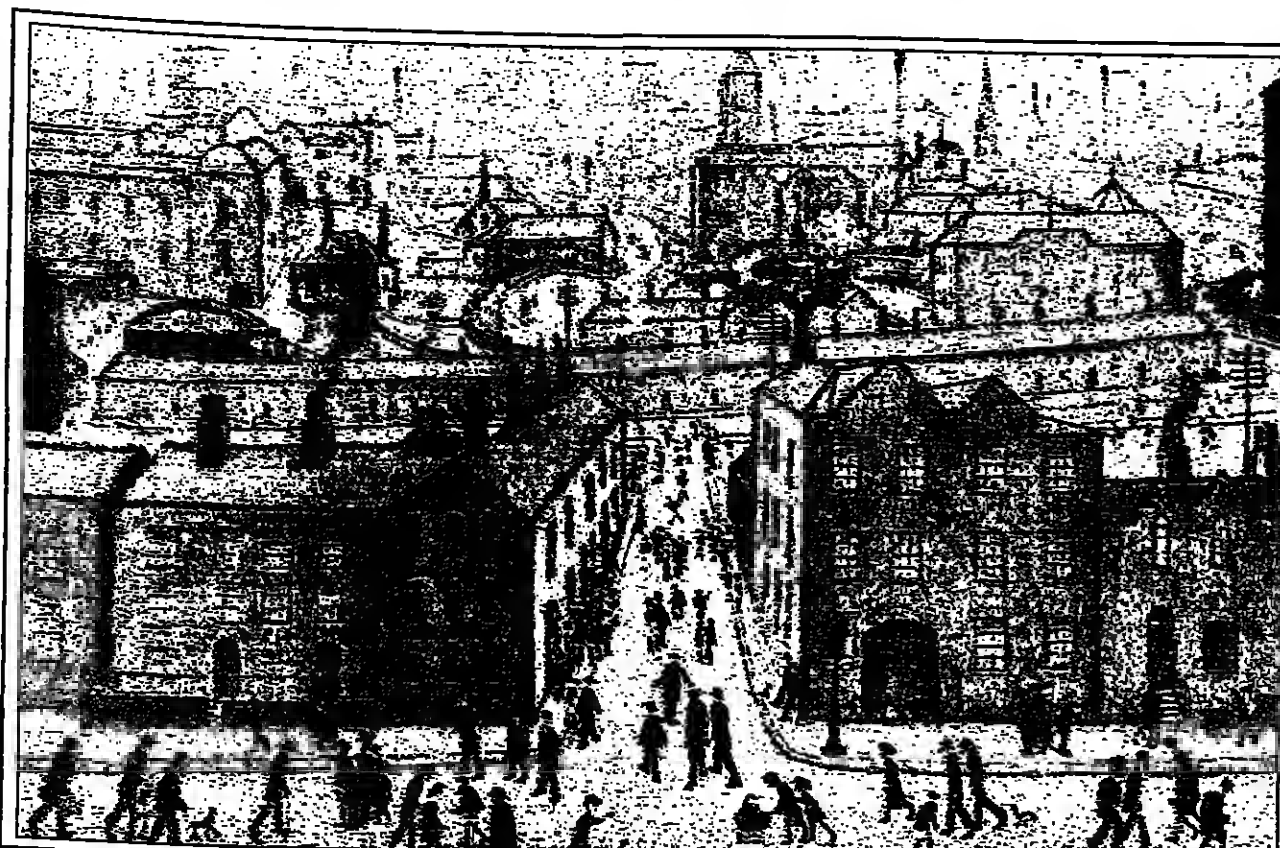
One of the schools on the list, Moringside Primary in Hackney, east London, has made such good progress that it is believed to have been given a clean bill of health three years after it was failed by inspectors.

Mr Woodhead is also expected to announce that 50 out of 400 schools have been taken off special measures, the system of close monitoring inspection applied when inspectors believe a school is failing.

Judith Judd
Education Editor

5/CULTURE

THE INDEPENDENT
MONDAY
10 NOVEMBER 1997



Lowry's gritty northern landscape falls foul of need for modern art images

One of LS Lowry's finest masterpieces is being auctioned at Christie's later this month. But as *Someone Ahmad* discovered, its present owner, a British chemicals company, wants to use the sale proceeds to give its new offices a more modern art feel.

Though the picture, called *Industrial Landscape*, is being auctioned anonymously, *The Independent* understands that the company selling, is British fine chemicals giant, Laporte. Though Laporte is now firmly in the high-tech age, making chemicals for the silicon wafers used in computers, the company has its roots in the industrial North, where it started out making bleach for straw used by milliners. Laurence Stephen Lowry is celebrated for his bleak, atmospheric paintings of matchstick figures and scenes of industrial

life in his native Manchester and Salford. Laporte snapped up his oil painting of smoking factory stacks at Christie's in 1983, where it was being auctioned by the estate of the writer Dame Rebecca West. She had bought the piece, one of Lowry's later works completed in 1944 when he was 57, during the Second World War.

Laporte originally paid about £40,000 for the picture (a detail of which is pictured left), which it hung in its former headquarters, a traditional block in Bedford Square, London. Christie's believes the painting, which measures 21in by 24in, could now fetch up to £300,000 at the auction in London on 27 November.

A Christie's spokesman said: "There hasn't been such an important industrial landscape on the market for years."

Laporte's recently-installed chief executive Jim Leng, says the proceeds from the sale will be used to buy art to decorate the company's smart, new London offices, the top two floors of Nations House

in Wigmore Street behind Selfridges store, which Laporte moved into five weeks ago.

"We haven't decided what we will buy in place of the Lowry," he said. "I thought I'd let everyone submit their own ideas."

Though both Mr Leng and his wife are great fans of Lowry, and own some rare Lowry prints, Mr Leng says he was quite relieved to see the painting go.

"We kept worrying that someone would come in off the street and steal it. I got into the habit of checking every day with my secretary that it was still there. Once the valuers took it away, my secretary, who didn't know it was being sold, nearly had fit when she saw the blank space on the wall," he said. Though his wife has threatened to buy the painting herself, he said his family would not be bidding.

Together with *Industrial Landscape*, which could fetch more than £200,000, Christie's is auctioning seven other Lowry oils, many from the painter's first overseas exhibition at the Salon in Paris in 1930.

On the air: TV news most of us can't watch

The BBC last night broke Sky's monopoly in round-the-clock TV news when it launched *News 24*. Rob Brown, Media Editor, went to Television Centre to see the start of a service few licence-payers were able to share.

Nothing, it seems, at the future-obsessed BBC these days, can stop an idea whose time hasn't quite come yet. And so last night the corporation launched a 24-hour rolling television news service which can be seen at this stage by just two small categories of viewers - cable subscribers and insomniacs.

The latter - who will presumably form a sizeable slice of the tiny audience which the service will attract when it is transmitted on BBC 1 in the small hours of the morning - didn't get to see Gavin Esler and Sarah Montague (poached from Sky News) present the first bulletin at 6pm yesterday.

The early evening start meant that only cable subscribers got to witness this much-hyped milestone in British broadcasting history.

That didn't stop Mr Esler getting excited about the enterprise. "This isn't going to be your grandfather's BBC," the corporation's former North America correspondent enthused in a promo video which prefaced the first bulletin. "It will be as authoritative as it was in granddad's day, but it's not going to be stuffy... it might even be fun."

Just to prove this Mr Esler shed his jacket and sported a trendy blue shirt with an equally trendy silver and blue striped tie for what is being billed as the "Now O'Clock News."

Actually *News 24* kicked off in an incredibly low-key fashion at 5.30pm with a brief history of

broadcast news in Britain from cinema newsreels to the advent of satellite. Some cable subscribers might have mistaken it for the History Channel.

But the history lesson was, mercifully, limited to less than a quarter of an hour. From the outset BBC bosses were obviously determined to live up to their pre-launch promise - "you'll never be more than 15 minutes from the headlines on *News 24*".

And that won't always just apply to cable subscribers and insomniacs, according to Jenny Abramsky, the BBC's director of continuous news. The woman who spearheaded the launch of *Radio Five Live* a few years back confidently forecast yesterday that *News 24* would also slowly weave its way into the fabric of British life.

"It will take time for some people to find *News 24*, but they will," she said. "It will never have huge audiences, but over a week it could have quite significant reach."

She defended the use of a substantial sum of licence-payers' money - *News 24* will cost £30m to start up and run in the first year alone - for the service which few licence holders will be able to see for some time. "News is a central part of the BBC's public service remit and in the multi-channel home the provision of 24-hour news is part of that remit," she said.

She cited the record audiences tuning into Sky News for the Louise Woodward trial as evidence of the growing need for continuous news. There was a live link last night from outside the Boston courthouse on *News 24*. There was also one from Ben Brown in Aman about the Middle East crisis. And there are bound to be many, many more in the weeks and months and years ahead. *News 24* may not have many viewers yet, but it will always have a hell of a lot of air time to fill.

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THE INDEPENDENT

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GPs to be given power to hire new recruits

Dr Dangerfield's fictional TV practice could have been helped to find a replacement for its departing star under the Government's latest initiative. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says ministers want to allow family practices to hire GPs on salaries of around £45,000 a year.

Dr Paige, the new recruit played by Nigel Havers in the new BBC TV series of *Dangerfield*, could have been hired on a salary by his colleagues under a new initiative by the Government.

After a series of pilots in London, Alan Milburn, the health minister, will announce this week that family doctors across Britain will be given power to hire other GPs on salaries. It could allow more doctors, who have dropped out to have babies or taken a career break for other reasons, to return to general practice.

In real life, as in the television world of the fictional practice, many general practices are finding it hard to fill vacancies, and patients are suffering.

The fictional practice in the *Dangerfield* series would suffer less than most - it has a picturesque setting in a semi-rural area, and a Range Rover appears to go with the job. The main shortages of GPs are being experienced in hard-pressed urban practices, where young doctors are reluctant to make a long-term commitment.

But country practices are also finding it difficult to fill vacancies. One problem is the

commitment required for GPs to take on a job in a practice, even as a partner. Many young doctors want to commit one day a week to research or other specialist work, in addition to their general practice duties.

Most GPs are employed as independent contractors through their local health authorities and derive their incomes of £45,000 a year from a complex range of fees and allowances agreed each year by the Government, after recommendations by their own pay review body.

The salaries will be negotiated locally, but the aim is to offer around £45,000 a year, similar to those earned by other practice GPs. The announcement is being made after agreement with the profession. The salaried GPs will be responsible to the practice that hires them.

Meanwhile, The British Medical Association yesterday said it was deeply concerned at weekend reports that ministers are planning to put cash limits on the drugs budgets of family GPs to curb the cost of prescribing on the NHS.

"You cannot have a situation where a GP's drugs budget runs out in February. You have to have a safety valve," said a BMA source.

Limiting prescribing budgets for each practice could lead to patients being denied drugs on the NHS, unless a let-out clause was allowed. The move is part of the plan, to be announced in the White Paper on the NHS at the end of the month, to abolish the barriers between family doctor surgeries and hospitals, which have cash-limited budgets.



On the record: Lobby reporters leaving a Downing Street briefing for Sunday newspapers in the 1980s. This followed a row over a briefing by the then chancellor, Nigel Lawson, involving Alastair Campbell, second left, then at the *Sunday Mirror*. As Tony Blair's press chief, Mr Campbell plans to end the use of anonymous 'sources' Photograph: David Rose

Men from the lobby step out into open government

The last remnants of secrecy surrounding the century-old parliamentary lobby news network are to be broken. Anthony Bevis, Political Editor, reports on the move towards more open government.

When Margaret Thatcher was in Number 10, they were attributed to "government sources". Under John Major, "the Prime Minister's office" was used to source lobby briefings. But with Labour at the helm, control has relaxed to the point at which reporters have ascribed quotes to the Prime Minister's spokesman.

Now, daily briefings by Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's chief press secretary, are to be put on the record - getting rid of the much-criticised system of non-attribution under which official "news" is attributed.

A review of the Government Information Service by Robin Mounfield, Second Permanent Secretary at the Office of Public Service, is due to be published this month.

The report is expected to include a recommendation that Number 10 briefings should be turned into press conferences, with Mr Campbell providing on-the-record quotes about Government policy attributed directly to "the Prime Minister's spokesman".

It is unlikely that the press conferences will be open to

cameras or microphones, if only because Mr Campbell is wary of being promoted to the point at which he obscures the message. But he has made it clear that he would welcome the opportunity to issue authoritative, on-the-record denials of some of the "garbage" that appears in the media.

The move is one direct result of confusion over the Government message on the European single currency last month, with Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, eventually being forced into a full-scale Commons statement.

If Mr Campbell had been able to issue a complete denial of a *Financial Times* report on 26 September, which claimed that the Government was "on the point of adopting a much

more positive approach to European economic and monetary union", much of the subsequent speculation might well have been stifled.

As it was, the FT report added more than £30bn to that day's London share values, and knocked four pence off the pound, and speculation continued until the Chancellor made his Commons statement that entry was not expected until after the next election.

The lobby system, under which political reporters were given privileged access to certain parts of Parliament, was created in 1884, and the current system under which lobby reporters are given a twice daily non-attributable briefing by Number 10 was initiated in 1930 by Ramsay MacDonald.

Lobby reporters have always been accomplices to a process of news management, but the system was turned into a fine art by Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's press secretary, who even used its cloak of anonymity to vilify ministers being prepared for purge.

One of his victims, John Biffen, described Sir Bernard as "the sewer rather than the sewage", suggesting he was simply delivering the Prime Minister's poison.

This month's Mounfield Report, which will be approved by the Prime Minister, will formalise that approach and extend it to all information put out by Mr Campbell's office - providing the Government with its own version of Labour's "rapid rebuttal" unit,

as well as a proactive, and publicly identifiable, machine for the delivery of its daily "good news" message.

Putting the day's definitive briefing on the record will also enable Parliament and others to judge whether a key element of the Government Information Service is sticking to the official conventions on propriety.

"That Government publicity should be relevant to Government responsibilities; should be objective and explanatory, not tendentious or polemical; should not be liable to misrepresentation; as being, party political; and should be conducted in an economic and appropriate way, having regard to the need to be able to justify the costs as expenditure of public funds."

Ministers considering calls for inquiry into CJD links with mad cow disease

A high-powered inquiry into the BSE epidemic, and the link to CJD in humans is being 'actively considered' by ministers. Colin Brown says Labour MPs want a judicial inquiry for the families of the victims.

Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, is giving "active consideration" to growing cross-party demands for a full public inquiry into the BSE epidemic and the links to CJD in humans.

Families of the CJD victims are demanding a judicial inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of more than 20 people, mostly young, from suspected exposure to BSE-infected meat products or employment in the meat industry.

An inquiry could be highly controversial, reopening the wounds of the industry, and pointing to possible lapses by the last Tory government before admitting a link with humans

had been established. Judy Mallaber, MP for Amber Valley, is among the Labour backbenchers pressing for an inquiry. One of her constituents became the latest victim of CJD to die in a case with a suspected link to BSE, and victims' parents are demanding a judicial inquiry.

Dr Cunningham confirmed in a letter to Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrat MP, that an inquiry was being considered.

The call for an inquiry was stepped up by Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on agriculture, in a recent Commons debate on rural life. He was told by Angela Eagle, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary that an inquiry into the "BSE legacy ... is under active consideration".

A Whitehall source said the terms of reference for the inquiry were also under discussion, but did not rule out the possibility that it would investigate the criticism from some families that the public was kept in the dark about the threat from BSE-infected products until it was too late.

The last government insisted that it alerted the public in March 1996, as soon as it was presented with medical evidence suggesting a possible link between the BSE and CJD in humans. That led to the widespread scare about eating undercooked beefburgers, and other beef products, with a fall in beef sales.

Mr Tyler, with a rural constituency in Cornwall North, said the scientific evidence on which ministers had been relying for their assurances to the public until March, 1996, had been inadequate. Until the rules were tightened up, conditions in abattoirs was also a "shambles", allowing possibly BSE-infected material into the food chain.

"There was scientific evidence that there was not a possibility of a transfer of BSE from animals to man. That evidence collapsed in March, last year, in a very dramatic way. That is an area of great concern. There is also the whole question of who was giving advice to ministers, and where were they getting it from? We need

to know if it came from commercially-sponsored research or from the Government's own research establishments. There are questions about the integrity of the last government that need to be answered."

The National Audit Office, the public spending watchdog, had investigated the way the cull of cattle was being handled to eradicate BSE from the British herd, and an inquiry should look into where the money went, he said.

Mr Tyler added that there were important lessons for food safety in Britain which the Government could learn from an inquiry into the handling of the BSE outbreak.

The Government is due shortly to unveil its White Paper on food safety, including the establishment of an independent food standards agency, promised in the Labour election manifesto, which said: "The £3.5bn BSE crisis and the E.coli outbreak which resulted in serious loss of life, have made unanswerable the case for the independent agency we have proposed."

Rival lottery to fight ban in Europe

Organisers of a new lottery which is expected to make up to £100m a year for charity will challenge the Government in Europe if it goes ahead with plans to ban it.

Prontol is to be launched later this month by a private company, Inter Lotto, with the backing of 25 British charities. The lottery will take place in pubs and clubs and be drawn every few minutes.

But last week the Government angered the charities by indicating that it is likely to seek a change in the law to prohibit such rapid draw lotteries.

An Inter Lotto spokesman said yesterday that it had taken advice on challenging any ban under European monopoly legislation. "We would probably go to Europe because the Government is not a disinterested party if we go to court here."

Adrian Sanders, MP for Torbay and vice-

chair of the all-party group on charities, will table an early day motion in the Commons today supporting the new game.

He said it was a way of redressing the 20 per cent decline in charitable giving since the National Lottery was launched.

"My view is that the Lottery has effectively taken power away from charities. The charities are having to tweak what they do to access funds through the National Lottery Charities Board [which allocates Lottery money]."

Many of the charities behind Prontol have written to the Prime Minister to object to any moves to outlaw the new lottery.

David Scott-Ralphs of Mencap said: "This could represent a vital new source of income for Mencap when it is getting ever more difficult to raise voluntary funds for our services. Is the Government also go-

ing to ban fruit machines, which give nothing to charity?"

Rosie Barnes, the former MP now chief executive of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, said it had received no money from the National Lottery and it would be "grossly unfair" if it was prevented from benefiting from another lottery.

"The Government receives around £1 billion each year in tax from the National Lottery, while many in the charity sector have lost out. We are certainly not in favour of a monopoly for Camelot."

A Home Office spokesman said a Government announcement would be made this week. The Government had been concerned for some time by the implications, such as a possible increase in gambling, of frequent draw lotteries, the spokesman added.

— Louise Jury

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On Cable and Satellite
8.30 pm
Q&A with Riz Khan
South African President Nelson Mandela answers questions on the social, political and economic situations facing South Africa today.
http://www.cnn.com/Programs/q&a/
9.00 pm
World News Europe
Top global news stories and features from a European perspective.
9.30 pm
Insight
Every night an in-depth look at the main news story of the day.
10.00 pm
News Highlights/World Business Today

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Shared grief. Initially women were reluctant to discuss sexual attacks during the 1994 genocide on Tutsis. But now they feel they have nothing to lose and are travelling to Tanzania to give evidence
Photograph: AP

Women break their silence over the rape of Rwanda

A Rwandan official is being accused of horrific sexual crimes in the tribunal set up to try the perpetrators of the genocide. Women who have been terrified to testify to the appalling scenes they witnessed are now risking their lives to come forward.

Amelia French reports from Arusha in Tanzania on another crack in the wall of silence surrounding the slaughter of 800,000 people.

For the first time, a man is being charged with rape as an instrument of genocide. Jean-Paul Akayesu was the mayor of Taba district west of the Rwandan capital of Kigali during the 1994 genocide. He has pleaded not guilty to charges which include genocide and crimes against humanity at the specially established International Crimes Tribunal.

It is widely known that huge numbers of women were raped during the two-month-long slaughter of about 800,000 Tutsis and their Hutu sympathisers in Rwanda. Although Mr Akayesu's trial began in January, the charges against him have only recently been amended to include rape.

Until then, no rape charges had been brought in the Rwandan genocide courts or in Arusha.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, who is the United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women, said this only happened after "enormous pressure" from women's groups.

Ms Coomaraswamy said that although the issue of rape had come up in testimony, tribunal investigators appeared to have been "insensitive" to it.

Initially, victims of rape were also reluctant to discuss the issue. "After the genocide, all women had in mind was survival. They just wanted food, they wanted to get their children in order to get their lives in order and they had no time for the concept of going somewhere far off and giving testimony. They just wanted to survive," Ms Coomaraswamy said during a trip which took in both Arusha and Rwanda.

"Now that three years have passed, many of them continually use the word justice. Wherever we went, we heard the word justice. And they can't stand the fact that a lot of the perpetrators [of sexual crimes] are wandering around," she said.

The prosecutor's office of the tribunal has set up a task force to concentrate on sexual crimes and is training special investigators.

Ms Coomaraswamy acknowledged that it was hard for some women to speak about their experiences. "The Rwandese language doesn't even have the words to describe some of the things that went on," she said.

But she said the main reason why women have kept quiet is fear. One woman



The trial against Jean-Paul Akayesu (above), a Kigali district mayor, heard that he was guilty of frequent killings and sexual torture
Photograph: Rex Features

who had testified at a preliminary trial in Arusha received death threats on her return. Her Hutu landlord then evicted her and she was left homeless. She now does not want to return to Arusha for the main trial.

Witnesses giving evidence at the trial of Mr Akayesu speak of the horrific sexual violence which went on after a group of Tutsis, most of them women and children, sought refuge in Mr Akayesu's local administration offices in Taba just after the genocide started in April 1994.

One woman from Taba, identified as PP, said she witnessed the rape and killing of a pregnant woman acquaintance, called Alexia, by policemen and local militiamen, known as *Interhamwe*, acting on orders from the defendant.

"She was holding the Bible. She gave it to the *Interhamwe* called Pierre as he was about to rape her. She said, 'Take this Bible ... because you do not know what you're doing,'" PP told the court. She said Alexia was then gang-raped until she miscarried. After that, she was beaten to death. PP, a Tutsi who managed to pass as a Hutu during the genocide, said she had been one of a group of onlookers.

Another witness, called NN, told the court how she had been gang-raped by *Interhamwe*. She said Mr Akayesu was responsible for repeated killings and acts of rape and sexual torture. "He didn't stop it, he had the means to stop it but he didn't. He wanted to be sure no Tutsis escaped," she said.

The prosecution has now rested its case in the Akayesu trial and the trial has been adjourned until a week today.

At the end of her testimony, the presiding judge thanked witness PP for her "act of courage" in going to Arusha and wished her a safe journey home. While witnesses are protected by the tribunal from when they leave home to when they return, once they are back in Rwanda, the Rwandan authorities are responsible for their security. Back in the villages, everyone knows who the witnesses are. However, many of the women have lost almost all their relatives. One source at the tribunal said they were prepared to speak out in court because they had nothing else to lose.

Chinese bring black economy to the blue Danube

BY IMRE KARACS

Thirty thousand Chinese have settled in Hungary since 1989, the year in which democracy was crushed in China but triumphed in Europe.

Although the exiles have since prospered by colonising emerging markets in the old Soviet empire, some Hungarian officials now think their success is getting out of hand - not least because the oriental riches has caught the attention of a greedy underworld.

Bao Lu Zi confesses she had not even heard of Hungary when she boarded the Trans-Siberian Express seven long years ago. Her destination was Germany, where she was to be reunited with her lover, Zeng You Xuan. A graphic artist who had made a small fortune drawing Japanese cartoon strips, he had no stomach for China after the rape of Tiananmen. She was prepared to go to the end of the world to be with him. That is practically where they ended up.

"We found out that Hungary was the only place on earth where Chinese people didn't need a visa," she explains, grappling heroically with rock-hard Magyar consonants which still remain beyond her partner's powers. For three years they lived off his copyright income and love. Then, as the money was running low, they set up the country's first Nintendo shop.

But that is all in the past. The bottom eventually fell out of the Gameboy market, and they had to find a new opportunity.

Ms Bao's ninth-storey flat on an outer-Budapest housing estate now doubles as the editorial office of *Shi Chang*, which means "Market Newspaper" - one of five weeklies catering for Hungary's Chinese community.

It is a small enterprise, but with great potential for growth. Up to 30,000 Chinese are estimated to live in Hungary, and thousands more of the pioneers who have since fanned out to the neighbouring virgin territories still kowtow to Chinatown on the Danube. Virtually all the goods sold by Chinese traders in the streets of Eastern Europe pass through Budapest on their circuitous journey, never seeing a customs man. The Hungarian retail trade alone is worth an annual £200m, insofar as anybody knows.

For this is a simply cash-in-hand economy, happily blending Chinese commercial savvy and an awesome talent for finding loopholes with Hungarian officials' inclination to look the other way. The Budapest government does not even want to know - and claims not to - how many Chinese nationals live in the country. In 1992 visa restrictions were re-imposed, yet the Chinese keep coming. The word on the Chinese grapevine is that visas can still be bought at the Hungarian embassy in Peking - under the counter.

The hub of this trading empire, now also linking the United States and Western Europe, is the "Four Tigers" market thrown up along the railway tracks in the inner city wasteland of Jozsefváros. This is skinhead country, so shoppers have to pass through metal detectors under the watchful gaze of a private army of macho security guards kitted out in fatigues. The mile-long rows of shacks enclosed by a wall on one side and containers welded onto the outside track have an air of permanence. Buses arrive daily from the Ukraine, Poland and Serbia, disgorging shoppers who buy in bulk. Everything has two prices: one for a single item, and the other marked "many".

You can buy plausible looking joggers for the equivalent of two pounds, "brand-

ed" jeans for two, and "Panasonic" ghetto-blasters and "Pioneer" car radios for prices that would seem suspiciously low in the Far East. In the air the aroma of slightly-burned paprika mingles with the smell of stir-fried ginger. Central Europeans, people from the Balkans and from the distant Caucasus jostle in their shopping frenzy. You will not find a cheaper "feather coat" - as it is labelled - this side of Samarkand.

"Hurray," say Hungarians, especially the estimated 15 per cent who buy all their clothes in one of the Chinese markets, because they cannot afford to go anywhere near a real shop. But the authorities, whose dream of turning their country into a bridge between East and West has not worked out quite as planned, are not so delighted. The Chinese, and Hungarians sympathetic to them, talk of "low-level harassment" aimed at forcing the uninvited guests to move on. Although foreigners are entitled to apply for permanent residence after three years, only 430 Chinese - who happen to be the richest - have so far been granted this privilege.

Tensions, meanwhile, are rising between the traders and the people who live off them. Matters came to a head last month, when some of the guards bit two

Chinese women, allegedly for late payment of rent. The heaves were chased away, the riot police despatched to restore order were pelted with stones by 2,000 traders. The Battle of Jozsefváros was won by the foreigners, who also claimed a moral victory: one guard is under investigation for assault.

But the incident was enough to launch an inquiry into the affairs of the Chinese colony. The initial conclusion is that, like true Hungarians, the Chinese may not pay all their taxes. The other, more worrying suggestion, is that the activities of some of the guests and of organised crime are beginning to overlap.

The police, unable to infiltrate the community for obvious reasons, are only guessing. There was a spate of bomb attacks earlier this year against restaurants in Budapest, including some Chinese ones. Two Chinese people died when the Great Wall restaurant was blown up, but the owner, a major wholesaler, seems keen not to make a fuss about the matter. Perhaps it is because of the Yugoslav weapons that were discovered on the premises.

The Hungarian authorities, with only a tenuous grasp on law and order, are scared. The Chinese and the their 3,000 registered companies in the country are getting richer by the day and increasingly inscrutable. But sending them packing does not seem to be an option. They create jobs, generate wealth, and their diligence holds the host nation in awe. And if they were to leave, who would clothe the poor? Try dressing up at Western prices for the average pension of £50 a month.

As the government ponders its decision, Ms Bao, feeling less adventurous now at 49 than seven years ago, clings to her adopted home. "I like Hungarians," she says. "They are friendly people. For me China is now a foreign country. I cannot imagine ever returning there." Ms Bao's partner is one of the lucky 430 with a residence permit. She herself has just submitted her application - for the third time.



L'Art de l'Assemblage

by Baron Philippe de Rothschild



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Cold shoulder for deal on greenhouse gases as world warms up relentlessly

Emergency talks on how nations should tackle the threat of global climate change made disappointingly little progress in Japan over the weekend. Time is running out, explains Nicholas Schoon, our environment correspondent.

Three weeks from today, ministers and officials from more than 100 nations are due in Kyoto, Japan, to reach an agreement on what to do about reducing the risks of catastrophic changes in climate and sea level.

They have had two-and-a-half years since the last high-level summit to hammer out a deal but it is hard to see how they can, so fundamental are the differences between countries. So over the weekend, conference host Japan held a special ministerial meeting for 20 nations and the European Union to try to bring them all closer. The invitees included rich and poor countries and were intended to embrace all the main players.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who flew to Tokyo to chair a day-long gathering of developed nations ministers, said afterwards: "It's a horrendous task to get agreement with such wide disparities."

About the only thing nations can all accept is that regional climates will change and sea levels rise in the next century, due to humanity consuming more and more fossil fuels and burning forests, thereby raising concentrations of heat-trapping "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere. But they differ widely on how large a threat these changes pose and what the appropriate response is for slowing down the rate of global warming.

The European Union takes the greenest position among the developed world, calling for industrialised nations to cut their annual emissions of greenhouse gases, chiefly carbon dioxide, by 15 per cent from their 1990 level.

The United States, the world's biggest producer of these, is calling only for rising emissions to be brought back down to their 1990 level by around 2010. The problem with this is that it looks merely like a delaying tactic because five years ago at the Rio earth summit the developed countries agreed they should stabilise at the 1990 level by 2000.

In Tokyo this weekend there was no progress in coalescing around a common target. Nor was there any breakthrough in committing developing countries to capping their emissions. In many cases they are rising far more quickly than in the developed world as they rush to industrialise.

Back in Berlin in 1995, when the basic terms of the Kyoto negotiating mandate were set out, the developing nations were not included. It was for the rich world, which has produced the lion's share of climate-changing pollution to date, to get its own house in order first.

South Africa's capitalists called to account

Tomorrow, corporate South Africa will have to answer for its conduct under apartheid at a special three-day hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Mary Braid asks whether business, which raked in huge profits, should be made to pay for a shameful past.

In his book *Reconciliation Through Truth*, cabinet minister Kader Asmal argues the concept of "corporate war crimes" ought to be explored in South Africa.

Mr Asmal holds business - like the professions and judiciary - culpable for the apartheid state and compares its complicity with the National Party to the recruitment of business and professional institutes to the Nazi cause in Germany.

Not only did South Africa's large corporations support an immoral regime - until a change of heart (or new perception of self-interest) in the 1980s - but they made massive profits from policies which kept black labour powerless and cheap.

Mr Asmal argues that the mine industry killed many more workers - an estimated \$4,000 - than police torturers ever did. And he points out that the country's two business giants, Anton Rupert,

many would lay at their door. It will claim that racism was the fault, not of business, but the state.

This week, the TRC commissioner, Dr Fazel Randera, said the farmers' unions - representing some of the most right-wing whites in the country - and the white mine workers' union were alone in refusing to make a submission to the Commission, charged with exposing the atrocities from the past. The farmers' unions claimed it could not speak for a diverse membership of 60,000 while the white mine workers simply said the TRC was biased.

The South African Chamber of Business will make a 40-page submission on behalf of its large membership. But some observers are already disappointed that companies like Shell - which allegedly ensured oil reached the pariah apartheid state - and Mercedes-Benz - criticised for supplying engines to the South African Defence Force - are not making personal submissions.

Sanlam, the huge Afrikaner insurance company, is so far alone in acknowledging that it prospered at the cost of black workers. The only body so far to come up with a compensation suggestion is the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut, a former pillar of the old regime, which is suggesting that an insurance fund set up by Afrikaner business at the height of political violence in the 1980s, and which now stands at 9 billion rand, be used to benefit those who suffered.

But next week's hearings will be shaped by one inescapable truth: the same companies which did business with the old regime are operating quite nicely with the new, and their presence in South Africa is as crucial to the ANC as it was to the old, beleaguered NP.

This perhaps explains why President Nelson Mandela has chosen to forge a pragmatic path in his dealings with business.

He has made friends of old enemies like Mr Oppenheimer and Mr Rupert, drawing on their economic expertise. But all the while he has been milking them through a quiet campaign which South African writer Mark Gevisser describes in quasi-religious terms.

The country's top businessmen, it transpires, often receive a call from the President just before bedtime. There is a familiar clearing of the throat before Mr Mandela tells tonight's lucky captain of industry which special project needs funding. Thus schools, clinics and community facilities have sprung up in townships all over South Africa as businessmen "buy forgiveness" from the self-styled "father confessor" to the private sector.

And so grubby corporations are miraculously born again with brand-new, shiny, non-racist credentials. Some people are appalled. When Bill Venter, head of the hi-tech company Altron, sponsored a library to commemorate the life of ANC hero Bram Fischer, Fischer's daughter Ruth Rice was dismayed. Mr Venter, always seen as a friend of the old regime, used the occasion to claim he had always been a champion of human rights. Many wondered exactly where he had been fighting.

Mr Venter later wrote a poem for the President on his birthday. "Your wisdom has woven a tapestry. Much more lovely than any artist's hand. With vibrancy that only we can understand. We who are Africa's people. And feel the heartbeat of this land."

With this kind of schmoozing and behind-the-scenes atonement, this week's public hearings will probably amount to little.



Rock of ages: Patriarch Diodoros, and the Israeli Antiquities Authority head, Amir Drori, giving a press conference above the Kathisma. Photograph: Reuters

Revealed: The rock where Mary rested on way to the stable

Archaeologists claim to have uncovered the rock that was venerated throughout the first Christian millennium as the place where Mary, pregnant with Jesus, rested on her journey to Bethlehem. Eric Silver in Jerusalem visits a likely place of pilgrimage for the start of the third.

The Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem, Diodoros, scratched the sign of the cross on a nobly outcrop of stained brown limestone just east of the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road yesterday, and blessed the Israeli archaeologists who had unearthed it.

The stout, white-bearded cleric was setting his seal of approval on a new pilgrim

focus for the millennium. What Rina Avner and her excavating team had rediscovered was a rock revered from the first to the eleventh centuries as the spot where the weary Virgin Mary rested on her five-mile trek from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, a few hours before giving birth to Jesus. It is known in Greek as Kathisma, the Seat.

"This is the rock," the patriarch asserted with the confidence of his faith, and led a posse of priests in a hymn to the mother of Christ.

Whether Mary ever sat on it is beyond proof, but there is enough evidence to convince the church, the archaeologists and a sceptical press conference that this is indeed the rock which early Christians identified as the place where she rested.

The rock, about 10 feet by seven, is at the centre of a massive octagonal Byzantine church that is also being uncovered for the first time since it was destroyed in 1009

by the notoriously anti-Christian caliph, al-Hakim. The limestone sticks up a few inches above the surrounding floor.

"This was the centre of veneration," Patriarch Diodoros explained. "Our ancestors transmitted to us from mouth to mouth down the centuries that this was the place of the Kathisma."

The tradition has persisted to the present day, though the precise location was not known. Every year, the Greek patriarch pauses here, in an ancient olive grove north of the Mar Elias monastery, to honour the Virgin during his Christmas procession from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

The church, one of the biggest, earliest and most magnificent shrines dedicated to Mary in the Holy Land, was built in the mid-fifth century with money donated by a rich widow called Iqlia. It covered about 180 feet square, with a central apse, pillared walkway from which worshippers could view

the Kathisma, and a cluster of outer chapels with decorated mosaic floors.

The site was first identified in a salvage dig when the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road was being widened in 1992, but there was neither will nor money to investigate further. The archaeologists returned five months ago when an Israeli contractor, working on the contentious Har Homa Jewish housing scheme to the south-east, illegally laid a plastic water pipe across the olive grove, causing minor damage to a wall of the church.

The Israeli Antiquities Authority, and the Greek church, which owns the land, are determined now to complete the excavation and develop the site in time for the Holy Land 2000 celebrations. The patriarch pledged yesterday to spend "hundreds of thousands" of dollars on development. Amir Drori, the retired general who directs the antiquities authority, was confident the archaeologists would find the necessary cash.



Harry Oppenheimer: Opposed universal suffrage

founder of the Afrikaner Rembrandt group, and Harry Oppenheimer, former head of English business rival Anglo American, long opposed blacks getting the vote.

At this week's hearings, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) will also go for the business sector's throat arguing it must compensate workers for apartheid. Sam Shilowa, Cosatu general secretary, will argue companies can pay for the past by ending wage discrimination on the basis of race and investing more in training.

With Anglo American, Rembrandt and 30 other companies poised to testify the stage seems set for some frank exchanges. But Mr Asmal and Mr Shilowa will be disappointed if they expect a radical outcome from the hearings.

Last week, few of industry's big boys were willing to reveal the contents of their submissions to the TRC in advance of the hearings. But it is believed that few will offer new revelations about the past and even fewer will make an apology.

It is reported that the Chamber of Mines, representing a number of controversial companies which made a killing in the old days, will concentrate more on the economic contribution of its members than on the social misery

Oil flows in Chechnya

Russian and Chechen officials officially opened yesterday the Chechen section of an international oil pipeline seen as crucial for rebuilding the shattered economy of the breakaway Caucasus region.

The 600-mile pipeline links Azerbaijan's offshore Caspian Sea fields to Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. The Chechen section was badly damaged during a 1994-96 war between Russian troops and separatist guerrillas.

The brief ceremony came a day after the Azerbaijan International Operating Company, an \$8bn consortium of world oil giants, said it had started pumping the first crude through the pipeline. — Reuters, Grazia

Spirit of Rabin inspires Israeli opposition

A huge rally in Tel Aviv this weekend to mark the second anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination by a right-wing religious fanatic kindled the Israeli opposition's will to topple Benjamin Netanyahu's government - and the conviction that in the former army commander, Ehud Barak, it has a winner.

The organisers projected the rally, in the town hall square where Yigal Amir gunned down the first Israeli Prime Minister to sign a peace agreement with the Palestinians, as non-partisan. But under the slogan, "We shall not forget and we shall not forgive", up to 200,000 demonstrators quickly targeted Mr Netanyahu.

Speaker after speaker condemned him for undermining the 1993 Oslo accords. Yossi Sarid, the left-liberal Meretz leader who served in Mr Rabin's government, pledged not to rest until Mr Netanyahu clone was forced to resign. "Go home, Netanyahu. Our souls are weary of your lies, your sophistry, your charlatanism, your adventurism, your dodging responsibility," he said.

More significantly, Mr Barak, whom critics had dismissed as a Netanyahu clone ready to pay any price for power, came off the fence. In an echo of Mr Rabin, another war-hero-turned-politician, the new Labour leader promised: "I, army serial number 448200, reserve Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak, a soldier in the Israel Defence Forces and a soldier in the army of peace, swear to you, Yitzhak, that I will lead on your path, will lead until we bring peace."

Saturday night's rally was the biggest since a protest in autumn, 1982, against the



Yitzhak Rabin's widow, Leah, addresses the weekend rally. Photograph: Reuters

massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila camps by Israel's Lebanese Christian allies. "What was until now a beaten, depressed camp, which didn't know its own strength," wrote the mass-circulation *Ma'ariv* yesterday, "received a major infusion of self-confidence."

It comes at a time when Mr Netanyahu, who is paying an official visit to Britain later this week, faces a revolt by his own Likud ministers, who accuse him of trying to impose one-man rule on their party. Also he has lost the trust of Israel's American ally and of its Arab peace partners. Although Mr Netanyahu is due to meet the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, in London, President Bill Clinton is refusing to receive him when he flies on to the United States to address Jewish leaders. — Eric Silver

Slaughter in Algeria

Attackers disguised as police slit the throats of 28 civilians and then decapitated some of the victims in north-western Algeria, people living in the region said yesterday.

According to one person who escaped, 23 people were taken from their cars and killed in a massacre between the towns of Slissen and Tajmout - not far from the border with Morocco - early on Saturday.

The attackers stopped cars at a fake police roadblock, took the victims out of their cars, bound them with electrical wire and then executed them by slitting their throats, said the escapee, who refused to be identified by name for fear of reprisals.

Some of the victims then had their heads cut off. Ali Bensalah, who discovered the massacre early on Saturday morning, said: "The heads were placed on the side of the road on a curve and I almost hit them."

No one claimed responsibility for the killings, which took place in a region that had been controlled by the Armed Islamic Group, the most violent organisation trying to overthrow the military-backed government.

— AP, Algiers

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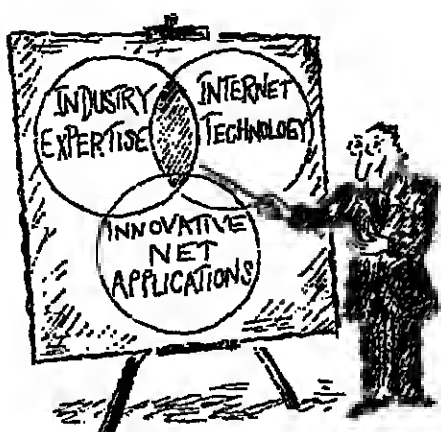
(See centre spread)



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FACT

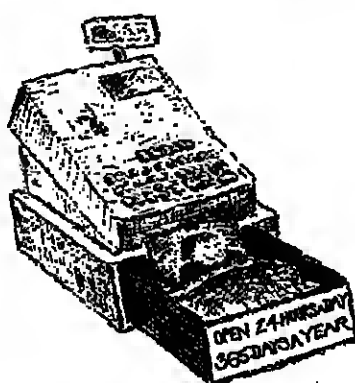
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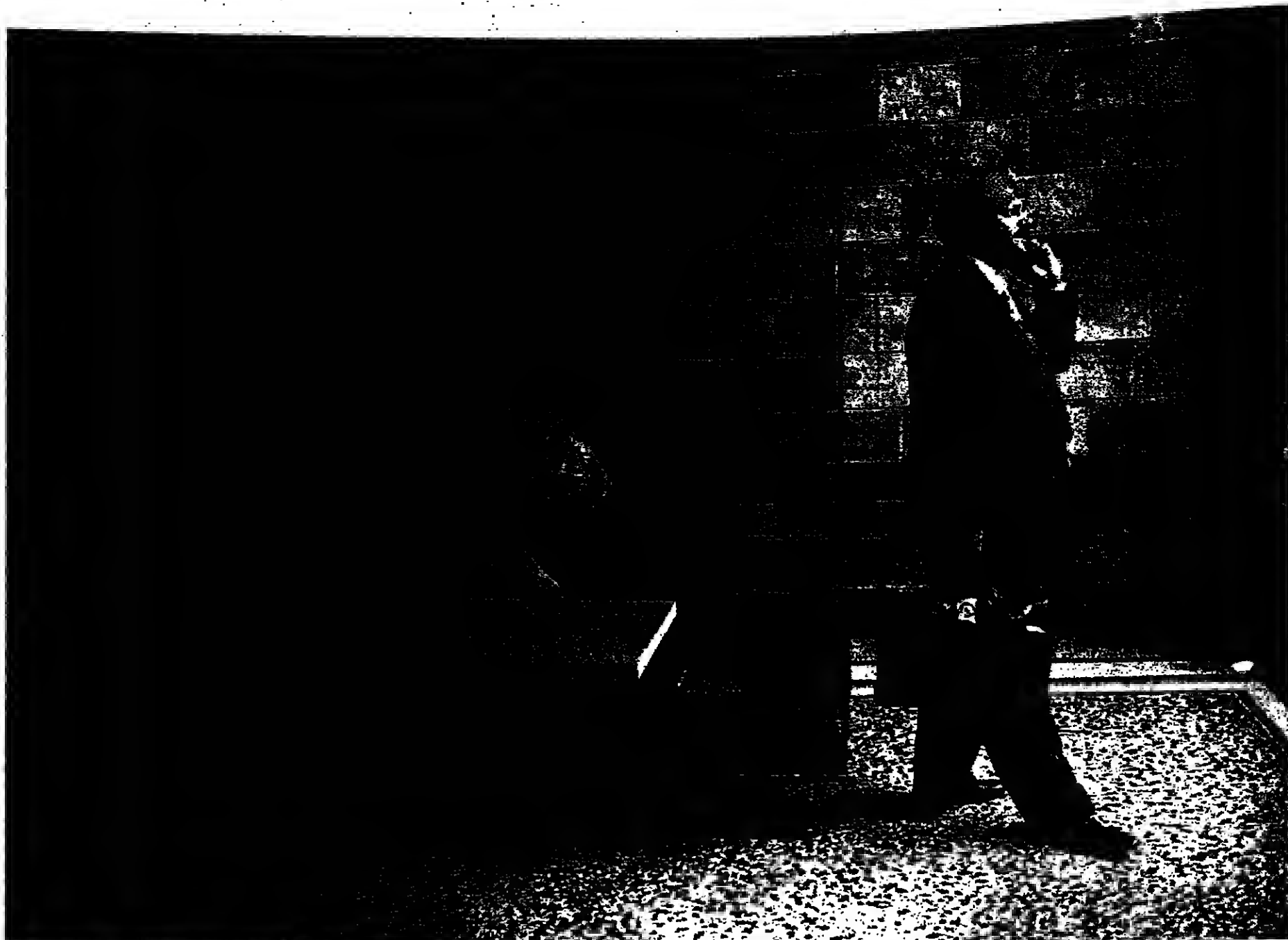
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IBM has already helped thousands of companies, departments and teams to transform their businesses into e-businesses.

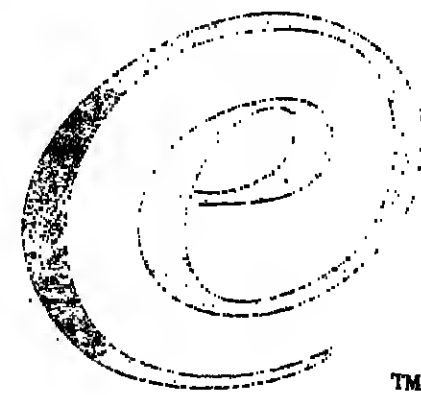
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e-business

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Solutions for a small planet

12/REMEMBRANCE

The centurion survivor who will never forget his fallen comrades

For those who lost friends and loved ones in battle, Remembrance Day will always have a special importance. One of them is 100-year-old Alfred Hutchinson, the last survivor of the navy's ill-fated attack on Zeebrugge in 1918. Max Arthur spoke to him.

Alf is a born survivor. Speaking at the residential home in Surrey where he now lives, he remembered how he joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry and saw action as a gun-sight setter against the German navy. But it was the bloody assault on Zeebrugge in the final year of the war that sticks with him. The port was used by the Germans as a base for U-boats and the Admiralty devised a plan to fill three disused minelayers with concrete and

drop them across the port entrance to block the submarines. The 4th Battalion RMLI, led by its band playing "Goodbye Dolly Gray", embarked from Dover on two River Mersey ferries, *Iris* and *Daffodil*, to accompany the cruiser, *Vindictive*. These three ships were to come alongside at Zeebrugge and attack the port's heavily guarded installations. Alf, who was on board the *Iris*, clearly remembers 22 April 1918. "It was a beautiful morn-

ing, but reality hit us when we were ordered to cover the top deck with sand to soak up the blood. Later that afternoon we watched the sun set. I think we were wondering if we would see it rise in the morning." The Germans, anticipating the operation, had waited until the ships were close before firing star-shells which turned the night into day; they opened fire on the sitting targets. It was decided to come alongside the *Vindictive* and

land over her decks. But before this could happen the *Iris* was hit. As Alf and the rest of the marines were ordered below, a shell came through the upper deck and killed 49 marines. "There was just one big heap of arms and legs. My friend, had his head blown off. He'd only got married on the weekend before we left. It was terrible," Alf says, still visibly moved nearly 80 years later. After the block ships were scuttled across the harbour,

the *Iris* limped back home. The battle had been ferocious and the ships' crews fought bravely to destroy several artillery positions. However, the cost was great with 635 men killed or wounded. Eight VCs were awarded. In Britain the attack was seen as a success, yet within 48 hours U-boats were operating from the harbour. Alf recalls the return journey. "We saw the white cliffs and to be alive was quite something." As they came

into Dover with only a young lieutenant steering by hand compass, the ships in the harbour sounded their horns. "We paid our last respects to our comrades," says Alf. "From Deal we went to Chatham. As we marched in to town we were surprised to be greeted by crowds of people cheering. We didn't know why, until we saw the newspapers. My feelings were that I was lucky to be alive... and sorrow for the friends I had lost."



Alf Hutchinson: 'I felt I was lucky to be alive'

Blair urges respect for Armistice silence

Shops, schools and the Spice Girls will observe two minutes' silence at 11am tomorrow to mark Armistice Day. The Prime Minister is urging Whitehall and Westminster to follow their lead, says Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent.

Tony Blair, who yesterday took part in the wreath-laying at the Cenotaph for the first time as a resident of Downing Street, gave his support to the two minutes' silence.

In a clear signal to the rest of Whitehall to follow suit, Mr Blair told the British Legion that he would observe the silence. William Hague, the Tory Party leader, and Paddy Ashdown, also backed the Royal British Legion's call for nationwide observance of a two minute silence. Dame Vera Lynn, BBC 1, BBC Radio 4 and ITN have also pledged their support.

The Speaker of the Commons, Betty Boothroyd has ordered staff at the Palace of Westminster to observe the silence.

Mr Blair told the British Legion: "I am pleased to hear that the Legion is again mounting a public awareness campaign."

"I will be keeping the silence on Armistice Day. I hope and expect millions of others will do the same and that they will be occasions full of dignity, respect and honour."

The Japanese ambassador yesterday joined former prisoners of war at Coventry Cathedral for an historic Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony which was also attended by the Provost of Coventry's twin German city, Kiel.

Part of the service was conducted by telephone on loud speakers with two men in Hiroshima taking part. One of the

two, a former Japanese POW camp interpreter, made an impassioned appeal for reconciliation.

It was the first time a Japanese ambassador has laid a wreath at a Remembrance Day ceremony in this country.

After the 90-minute service, Sadayuki Hayashi said lessons must be learned. "I am very glad I came here," he said, praising the warm welcome he had received.

Although the service was attended by representatives of the Far Eastern Prisoners of War organisation, FEPOW, some local people were thought to have stayed away in protest at the ambassador's presence.

The Queen Mother yesterday joined the Remembrance Day commemoration at the Cenotaph for the first time in four years as the nation remembered the dead of two world wars and other conflicts including the Falklands and the Gulf Wars.

The Queen led the traditional ceremony in front of thousands of veterans as millions more watched the event on television.

The Queen Mother, 97, wearing a black hat and black coat, was watching the ceremony from a window in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, overlooking the Cenotaph, marking a return to her traditional place after missing the ceremony for three years because of ill-health. She had also missed Saturday night's annual Festival of Remembrance at London's Royal Albert Hall for the fourth year in succession.

The Prime Minister's family - his wife Cherie, and children Euan, 13, Nicholas, 11, and Kathryn, aged nine - watched from a balcony alongside the one used by the Royal Family.

The wreath-laying was followed by a short service, conducted by the Bishop of London, The Right Rev Richard Chartres.



The Japanese Ambassador, Mr Sadayuki Hayashi, lays a wreath during yesterday's Service of Remembrance at Coventry Cathedral. It was the first time that the holder of his office had laid a wreath during such a service in Britain. Photograph: PA

Irish tribute to troops who fell in Great War

Ireland's Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, has backed a plan for Dublin to fund a memorial in Belgium to mark the sacrifices of all Irish troops who died in the First World War. It would be a powerful symbol of reconciliation. Alan Murdoch in Dublin reports.

In a new move to encourage reconciliation with Unionists in Northern Ireland, Dublin has agreed to fund a memorial in Belgium for tens of thousands of Irish troops who died fighting for Britain in the First World War.

The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, agreed to support the plan last week when he met members of the Journey of Reconciliation Trust, including the Londonderry community leader and former loyalist activist Glen Barr and the former TD (MP) for Donegal, Paddy Harte, whose constituency includes numerous southern Protestants.

Mr Ahern said the memorial would "not only remember the sacrifices of those from all parts of Ireland and from all political and religious traditions who fought and fell in the war" but would also be "a powerful symbol of reconciliation".

The memorial will be a model of the great megalithic tomb at Newgrange in Co Meath. The Dublin government will provide IR£150,000 for the Soldiers and Sailors' Trust to build the memorial, which will comprise a round tower in the Newgrange style, and a park symbolising the four provinces of Ireland.

The design will see sunlight enter the burial chamber at 11am on 11 November, Armistice Day, marking the moment when the Great War ended. At Newgrange a small opening allows light into the centre of the tomb on 21 December, the shortest day of the year.

The move follows the restoration of Lutyns War Memorial gardens at Inchicore in Dublin, scene of a historic ceremony following the first IRA ceasefire in 1994, when representatives of both Sinn Féin and Ulster Unionists attended a remembrance ceremony.

Apart from its Northern Ireland implications, the move will be also welcomed by a vocal lobby in the Irish Republic which has urged Dublin to pay similar homage to Ireland's Great War dead as to those who died in pursuit of Irish independence. This would recognise the complex position of followers of Westminster nationalist leader John Redmond. He hoped Irish volunteers' support for the Crown in the conflict would encourage the fullest implementation of Home Rule afterwards.

Following the decision not to wear a poppy at her inauguration tomorrow, the President-elect, Mary McAleese, attendance at yesterday's Armistice Day ecumenical service at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin was welcomed by the Royal British Legion, which organised the service, and by her predecessor, Mary Robinson, now UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Berlin, 9 November 1938: the night it all came home

An invitation to return to Berlin for the first time since being forced out 59 years ago was not easy to accept. But John Izbicki joined other 'lucky exiles' and their families on a haunting walk down memory lane.

Going back can be hard, even harrowing. Especially when it is to a city which you and your parents had once served and loved but which had turned dreams and ambitions into living nightmares, destroyed homes and places of worship, robbed you of your possessions and your dignity and sent you out into exile if you were lucky, or into gas chambers and crematoria if you were not. So it was not easy to accept an invitation from Eberhard Diepgen, governing Mayor of Berlin, to spend a week in Germany's restored capital.

But the invitation was gracious. The city was determined not so much to make amends, but to acknowledge its heavy debt to histo-

ry. For most of the 87 who accepted and came accompanied by husbands or wives, sons or daughters, it was the first time they had set foot on Berlin soil since their forced departure some 60 years ago. And so they returned - from New Zealand and Australia; Uruguay, Chile and Argentina; Brazil and Mexico; America and South Africa; Israel, France and the Netherlands; Sweden and Denmark; from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

And the memories came flooding back. I went to look at my father's shop in the Invalidenstrasse (in former East Berlin). Its windows were now bricked up. They had already once been smashed on 9 November 1938 - the infamous Kristallnacht, when all Jewish shops were vandalised and synagogues razed. At the house where we had lived, just two doors away, was a wide space. It had been bombed. Yet memory's ghosts remained.

We were wined and dined, taken to the opera and invited to a cruise on the Wannsee, Berlin's extensive, peaceful lake. Among the

fine villas on its banks, two are particularly outstanding. One, occupied by a Berlin diving club, was once the home of the distinguished Jewish painter Max Liebermann who, on discussing Nazi atrocities in the early Thirties, said: "I want to throw up more than I am capable of eating." He died in 1935 before the real horrors were let loose.

The other magnificent villa had staged the Wannsee Conference on 20 January 1942. Reinhard Heydrich, Hitler's security chief, chaired a meeting of 14 senior Nazis, including Adolf Eichmann, to discuss how best to implement "The Final Solution".

Today, the villa has been transformed into a moving educational centre, a memorial to the holocaust. Here, for the first time, I was able to inspect two heavy tomes listing the names of hundreds of thousands of Berliners, their places of birth, their addresses - and the dates of their deaths or their deportation, the destinations and, where known, the dates of their deaths. My grandmother's name was there - transported to Theresienstadt; and the

names of my uncles, aunts, cousins, families for whom there had been no "lucky exile" - all to Auschwitz.

I was by no means alone in having had a "narrow escape", even though it was perhaps narrower than most (my parents and I managed to squeeze into England on 3 September 1939, just six hours before Neville Chamberlain went on air to declare war with Germany). Everyone who returned had reminiscences.

Not all returnees were Jews although most had been born Jewish. There was, for instance, Susanne Woodin, from Kent who was born Susanne Schlome in the Berlin of 1930. In July 1939, she was among the fortunate to be put on one of the Kindertransport consignments to Britain. Now here she was with her husband, Charles, who, by coincidence, was also born in Germany.

And there was Renate Melinsky, from Norwich, who was born in 1927 as Renate Rubeman. She, too, was accompanied by her husband, Canon Hugh Melinsky, an Anglican priest, whose grandfather was the son of a rabbi and came to England

from Kiev to escape the Russian pogroms at the turn of the century.

The oldest ex-Berliner to return journey was the photographer and film director Walter Gustav Reuter, now 92, who was blacklisted in the early Nazi days for championing striking trade unionists and Berlin's left. He now lives in Mexico City. From an Israeli kibbutz came Hetty and Hannah Beer, whose father, Max Beer, the distinguished socialist journalist and commentator, had his books burnt by the Nazis in front of the State Opera, and today has a Berlin street named after him.

Today's Berlin is like a plant growing afresh. Long-forgotten names have been resurrected. The old, majestic Hotel Adlon is back on the (ex-East Berlin) Unter den Linden, less majestic perhaps than it was in the Thirties and a little more neo-tech gimmicky. Wertheim, a once-Jewish department store is again in full swing. But the real miracle is the rebirth, not so much of Berlin, as its Jewish community. Before the advent of Hitler there were 173,000 Jews living and working in Berlin. The "Final Solution" all

but wiped them out. By 1950, the total was 3,000. Today there are 10,000 and five synagogues, plus two schools, a primary and a secondary.

"Berlin's Jewish community with its own schools and cultural centres is once again the biggest in Germany and we welcome it wholeheartedly," said our host, Mayor Eberhard Diepgen. And he added: "I realise to return to a place where so many crimes were committed against you cannot have been easy. So I thank you with all my heart for agreeing to come and see for yourselves."

Before our departure, I took a trip to Schöneberg, once a busy, fairly affluent Jewish area. Many streets today provided echoes of that Hitlerian nightmare. Hanging from lampposts were plaques with reminders: "Jews not permitted to practise as dentists... decree 4 July 1940" ... and, most grotesque of all: "Jews forbidden to emigrate... decree 23 October 1941." And the words: "Never forget!"

Forget? Is it possible? The ghosts of Berlin will go on haunting. Perhaps forever.



John Izbicki: Family members transported to their deaths

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13/INTERVIEW

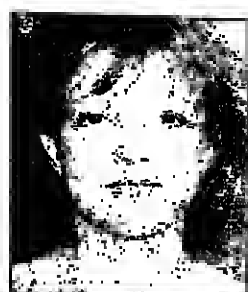
Who would want Mr Sleaze?

When Neil lost his seat as MP for Tatton, Christine lost her job as his parliamentary secretary. So instead of two incomes, they now have none. So far, so obvious. But why is it that the Hamiltons are still, as a couple, so utterly compelling?

We are on the motorway, driving back to London from Cambridge, where Christine Hamilton has given a talk at the University Union to promote her book, *The Bumper Book of British Battles*, "the ideal Christmas present for mothers-in-law and great-aunts," she enthuses shamelessly. "published by Robson Books for only £14.95."

The Hamiltons drive a Rover with 152,000 miles on the clock. I know this, because they say so.

"This car's done 152,000 miles," says Neil, as if this proves conclusively that he has led a morally proper life during which he has never accepted naughty wads of cash. "Yes, and it's done us jolly well, hasn't it darling?" confirms Christine. They are always echoing and reinforcing each other like this. They are a great double act. I'm still trying to work out if they're a tragic or a comic double act. Perhaps they are



DEBORAH
ROSS
TALKS TO
CHRISTINE AND
NEIL HAMILTON

tragi-comic. Maybe they are how PG Wodehouse would rewrite *Macbeth*.

Anyway, after some roadworks have been negotiated - "hang on everybody while we get through this tricky what-not," exclaims Christine - they shift the discussion to Christine's spiel at the Union.

Christine, sighingly: "They didn't laugh as much as I'd hoped."

Neil, comfortingly: "Well, they weren't a Bernard Manning-type audience."

Christine, perceptively: "That's because I'm not Bernard Manning, darling!"

Neil, encouragingly: "I thought the applause was very warm."

Christine, perking up: "They liked my Six Mile Bottom joke."

Neil: "It all went very well. I certainly enjoyed it."

Christine, craning her neck round to where I am cowering in the back: "Did you enjoy it?"

"It was great," I say, because I am a hopeless coward.

God, London another 58 miles, and I've told one big fib already. Look how easy it is to get sucked in! A lesson to us all, I think. But back to the Hamiltons, who are utterly compelling in their way.

Compelling? Yes. And fascinating, too. Last week, the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee effectively endorsed the Downey Report by concluding that while there was no absolute proof Neil took stuffed envelopes from Mohamed Al Fayed, the evidence was "compelling". Further, in accepting free stays at the Ritz and suchlike, his conduct fell "seriously and persistently below the standards which the House is entitled to expect of its members". But still the Hamiltons won't have it.

"I hesitate to compare myself to the Bridgewater Four, but I have been given a life sentence of opprobrium for something I didn't do," he says. "My husband is innocent, and I will carry on fighting for innocence," she says.



Devoted couple: the Hamiltons - 'one leg each of a pair of trousers'

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

No, they are not about to go away. They have come to believe, absolutely and obsessively, that they have done nothing wrong, and are the wronged. They have built a big fantasy house based on this belief, with caves and guttering and a fitted kitchen and everything, and can't move out because if they did, where would they go? It's a *folie à deux extraordinaire*, if you'll excuse my French. If the Hamiltons are examples of anything, they are examples of the extent the mind will go to when vanity and conceit need protecting from horrible truths. Have you ever thought of counselling? I ask Christine, at one point. "Counselling? Toshi!" she replies.

People always imagine that Christine wears the trousers in the relationship. Certainly, she is much noisier and bossier. "Young man, there's a chair up here," she harks to a latecomer at the talk. (I imagine she is quite scary in bed. "No, not there. There. You silly man.") And, of course, she was brilliantly noisy and bossy when she had that set-to with Martin Bell on Knauford Heath during the run-up to the election. She says she didn't intend to do what she did. "But I just saw this sanctimonious little man standing there in his white suit and I flipped." Yes, she does appear to rule Neil.

"Neil, we must go home now. You have to be up by 8am to do Sky. Have just the one drink."

But still, they need each other so hugely, and are so chillingly devoted, that it ultimately makes them equal. They are one leg each of a pair of trousers, if you can bear to think of it like that. They had to go on to *Have I Got News For You* as effectively one person, because otherwise it would have been like having an amputee sitting there. What one lacks, the other makes up for. She cooks. He vacuums. She seems quite lusty and passionate. He seems quite a cold fish, bloodless and marrowless. Her big face trembles with every emotion. His smaller one is grey, with thin lips. Of course, one cannot blame him for this, but even so.

Certainly, he considers himself the intellectually superior one. But, then, I think he considers himself intellectually superior to most. He says to me at one point, after something I have said: "If you don't mind me saying, that is a very superficial analysis." This is preposterous because, as everyone knows, I'm a very deep thinker whenever I'm not too busy reading *Helló!* He later says he became an MP because "I wanted to rule the world." I

think he may be suffering from a touch of the Nietzschean Supermans.

We meet at the Cambridge Union. Christine is wearing a red skirt teamed with a loudly patriotic red, white and blue striped jacket. Both are "ages old", she stresses, as if this proves once and for all that she has led a blameless life untainted by naughty Harrods gift vouchers. "In fact, I haven't been into a shop for anything other than food or a pair of tights since 1 May. We can't afford non-essentials any more. Except wine, but then I consider that essential."

They both lost their jobs when Neil lost his seat because she had always been his parliamentary secretary. They have gone, they moan, from having two incomes to having none.

No, Neil cannot go back to practising as a barrister. "Who would want Mr Sleaze?" he asks. Yes, they still have the flat in London, and their converted rectory surrounded by four acres in Nether Alderley, Cheshire. But still, they are poor, they say.

Christine: "We have had to make many economies."

Neil: "The first thing we did was to cancel the newspapers."

Christine: "You just do not need *Country Life* every week."

Neil: "And we are not noticeably less informed."

Christine: "Someone sent us some vouchers for a free copy of *The Times* every Tuesday, so we use those."

The Cambridge students do receive her warmly. And they do appear to like her Six Mile Bottom joke. Apparently, when Baroness Trumpington was first offered a peerage she was asked if she would like to take the name of the village she lived in. She replied: "You don't think I'm going to call myself 'Lady Six Mile Bottom', do you?" The undergraduates seem most amused. I wonder who gets to go to Cambridge these days. But then Neil, who has come along to "man the stall", manages to flog only two of the books. So perhaps the students were just being polite.

The book, which includes chapters on Baroness Trumpington, Margaret Thatcher, Joan Collins and Nicola Hnrlick, is a bit of a shoddy cuttings job. Predictably, it has not been enthusiastically reviewed. Predictably, the Hamiltons just do not get it. When you live in the sort of house they live in, it's those outside who are barking.

"The *Sunday Telegraph* reviewed it as if

it was meant to be a serious book," complains Christine, outraged.

"Christine does not think she is going to get the Nobel Prize for literature," adds Neil, helpfully.

"Some people just do not have a sense of humour," she concludes decisively.

Neil and Christine, both now approaching 50, have been married for 14 years, but their story goes back much further than that, to when they were 19 and met though the Confederation of Conservative Students. Christine, the daughter of a GP was, back then, an undergraduate at York studying sociology while Neil was at Aberystwyth studying economics. She first spied Neil, she says, playing the piano under Landseer's *The Swannery Invaded by Sea Eagles*. This painting, I now know, shows eagles hitting the heads off swans. This would be a great metaphor for something if only I could think of what. (I am paid good amounts of cash for my questions, but they're going to have to up it a bit if they want metaphors.)

They courted for two years, during which time Neil sent Christine many a "beautiful" love letter. "I still have them. I keep them in a little leather box I lock with a gold key." But after she graduated, she dumped him. Hoping to become a politician herself, she took a job as secretary to Sir Gerald Nabarro MP. She moved to London, and that was that. "I was 21 and arrived at the House of Commons and had MPs asking me out and it was all so exciting, while Aberystwyth was a day's journey away." She gave Neil the elbow at the Disraeli Palace, Morecambe, where they had gone to hear Sir Edward Heath speak at some student do. Yes, Neil was very upset, she says. "He was chairman of his Conservative association and needed a girl on his arm."

They exchanged annual Christmas cards but did not meet again until 1976, when Neil called her up and arranged to take her out to lunch at The Gay Hussar. Unbeknown to her, he had not met anyone else in the interim and was rather hoping this lunch would revive matters. "Poor Neil. He was a research student, on a pittance. The lunch cost him six months' money." "Three months, actually, darling," interjects Neil. "Well, whatever. But I was heavily involved with someone else so, afterwards, I just gave him a peck on the cheek and left." The following year, she received a Christmas card from him with a small note inside. The note said he was now studying for the Bar and was staying with an aunt; why didn't she give him a call? Having finished with the previous bloke, she did give him a call.

"He came to my flat on the evening of 17 February. 1978 and never went home again." As she remembers the date so clearly, was it the first time they had sex? "Gracious no," she exclaims. "We had met as students." Lusty, as I said. But never any children. Neither ever wanted any.

They married in Cornwall in 1983, on the Saturday before the general election. There was no honeymoon as such, just a night in the Exeter Motor Lodge Hotel on the way back to Cheshire. Christine did not mind. By now, she had given up her own ambition, after perhaps deciding Neil was the better bet. She was always his parliamentary secretary. In effect, they were both the MP for Tatton. She is right when she says: "If someone accuses Neil of being a liar, then they are accusing me of being a cheat, then they are accusing me of being a cheat. I knew everything he got up to." A *folie à deux*, without doubt.

But what now for the Hamiltons? There are no more parliamentary appeals left for them to pursue. They can not re-investigate libel proceedings because they don't have the money. Any plans to live abroad? I ask hopefully. "No, we are not going to be fleeing the country," replies Neil. Probably, they will spend the rest of their lives writing mad letters in green ink. Together. In that house.

"As Mrs Hamilton did such a good job flogging her own book, this little bit of space at the end, usually reserved for the plug, will instead be given over to publicising 'Macbeth' by PG Wodehouse, to be published shortly by Dead Men Rewriting Other Dead Men's Classics Inc. It will include the famous lines: 'Is this a dagger I see before me, Aun! Agutlm?' 'No, Freddie Fluch-Fluch, it's n voucher for a free stay at the Ritz, but I think you'll find it'll do the job just as deucedly well.'"



DINAH
HALL

This is the
end. The
State is
monitoring
packed
lunches ...

It's no use, I'm going to have to ask for my vote back. Sleaze and broken promises I can take - it's how we expect government to behave. But what is really hard to stomach is the toe-curling spectacle of Blair and Mandelson acting like parents of teenagers trying to notch up their cool-cred. Britain is not a country of warm beer and village greens any more - it's all about John Galliano, Alexander McQueen and Stella McCartney, declared Mandelson last week. This must be news to 99 per cent of the population. But it puts the fuss over Cherie Blair's Balmoral trousers into perspective

— she must have been wearing New-Lahour-approved McQueen humsters: no wonder the Queen Mother was frightened.

And as if the Conran-isation - "rebranding" in Mandelspeak - of Britain was not bad enough, now comes the news that the Government is going to start monitoring the contents of packed lunches. This is scary stuff. I'm usually quite safe on the moral high ground when it comes to parenting skills - I limit the children's television intake, delouse them regularly and read them a bedtime story - but the lunchbox is where my

standards slip. If I haven't had time to nip to Conran's Bluebird delicatessen for the right designer olive oil to drizzle over their grilled goats' cheese and basil salad, then sometimes they reluctantly have to put up with second best: golden syrup sandwiches, pickled-onion-flavour Monster Munchies and a Penguin, washed down with Ribena. But at least I have taught them to think of those less fortunate than themselves: my daughter always asks for two Penguins - one for a friend whose mother can afford to give him only home-made pasta salads, fresh pineapple and lichees. Of course, I've

never told her about these acts of charity - we like to do our bit in our own quiet way.

Competitive parents now have a new yardstick by which to measure their own against other people's children - Base Line Assessment. Reception children are assessed on their numeracy, literacy, social and physical skills, using a grading of R, 1, 2 or 3. This is a useful tool for measuring a school's "value-added" input later on, but of course ambitious middle-class parents see it merely as the first academic hurdle for their little ones. (Mine didn't do too well on the hurdles; she got a

I for gross motor skills, but I'm pleased to say she got a 3 for her vocabulary, which is quite gross enough thanks to the input of older brothers: with such a knowing child we could never have one of those big designer fridges by Smeg in the house ... now there's a classic case for rebranding.) It's going to take a while for them to get Base Line Assessments right, but the Department of Education might like to rethink the R: it stands for "ready for reception" but this won't wash with upright parents. "Oh my God, he got an R - that means Retarded!" I heard one mother say to her friend. "No, it

doesn't," reassured her friend, "it means Reject."

Early last week I was photographed by a tabloid newspaper sitting in the kitchen sink, dangling a pair of strappy high-heeled shoes from my little finger; having taken shots of me running for a bus and hanging the washing out in stilettos, the photographer had run out of suitably tacky ideas. Fortunately the story about squishy videos - snuff movies involving small furry creatures and women in stiletto heels - had not broken, or I fear Dennis and Napoleon, our darling pet rats, might have come to a squishy end.

A hard choice which should not have turned into a pushover



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This is not about smoking. This is about Tony Blair and how he makes decisions. The argument about whether cigarette company sponsorship of racing cars encourages people to smoke is far from clear cut. When the Government was in favour of a total ban on tobacco advertising – that is, before last week – ministers quoted the 1992 Smeed report which concluded that “the balance of evidence” was that advertising has a positive effect on consumption. Well, there are plenty of other things to go into that balance, especially when one side is weighed down by the constraint on freedom of expression of an advertising ban. And young people take up smoking for a hazy cloud of reasons, from rebellion to slimming, with the effect of advertising a pea in the balance, if that. So the Government’s policies, of prohibiting the 16-18 age group from smoking and banning advertising, were illiberal and misguided. It makes much more sense to focus public policy on the dam-

age and discomfort smokers inflict on others and, as we report today, the drive against “passive smoking” is well on the way to turning smoking in public into a hole-in-corner, furtive-in-doorway activity. It would have been best if the Government had dropped the ban on tobacco advertising altogether, although it is easy to see why that did not happen. It was in the manifesto; it has public support; there would have been an outcry far worse than the present fuss. But now we have a bad policy made worse by inconsistency, by an exemption for Formula One racing for which a convincing case cannot be made. Peter Mandelson, the Minister for Explaining the Higher Mysteries of New Labour, attempts to make that case on the opposite page but, in our view, he fails. The Government now holds that, although adverts on racing cars encourage smoking, the damage done to the nation’s health is outweighed by the need to

save jobs in the motor-racing industry. That would be a logical, albeit difficult, argument if the threat to British jobs were real. But it is not. Mr Mandelson’s arguments are taken from the lobbying brief of Formula One, the billion-pound business run by Bernie Ecclestone. This is a one-sided presentation which does not stand up to scrutiny. Yes, a ban on tobacco advertising will hit the motor-racing industry’s income. Because tobacco companies face tight restrictions on their promotional activities, they are prepared to pay more than anyone else to sponsor racing teams, perhaps between 10 and 30 per cent more. But is that enough to force the entire industry to up sticks and relocate to Malaysia? Motor-racing grew up in the Home Counties; for years reckless eccentrics tinkered in their garages around Silverstone and Brands Hatch. Now, all the Formula One teams are based in England, except Ferrari, whose lack of success is

often blamed on not sharing the support network and specialist culture of the British racing fraternity. The spectre of this local sub-economy being uprooted and replanted in the Far East is sustained by a single propagandist statistic: 70 per cent of the world audience for televised motor-racing is in the Asia-Pacific region. Well, so what? Television programmes can be made anywhere and shown anywhere: what is hard to move, even in the modern globalised economy, is local networks of human expertise and niche technology. So what did Mr Blair say when Mr Ecclestone presented him with his special pleading? Did he say that he would govern for the whole nation and not for any vested interests within it? Did he say that bleating about jobs is the last defence of a failed argument? Did he say, “Look, it was in our manifesto, it’s not perfect, but it must be applied fairly to everyone”? He did not. Did he even call for the other side

of the argument to be put? It seems not. At the first puff, Mr Blair caved in. Like the underdog smoker of Labour’s public health mythology, he was dazzled by the glamour, high technology and international prestige of a globally televised spectacle (“sport” is surely a misnomer). The issue is not the job of Tessa Jowell’s husband as an adviser to the Benetton racing team. She was merely put up on the radio in order to announce the Prime Minister’s U-turn. Nor is the issue simply one of Labour donations. No one imagines that Mr Blair’s judgment can be bought for a few thousand pounds. But what can apparently be bought for a few thousand pounds is access, and time with the Prime Minister is a valuable commodity, especially when he is as flexible as this. So much for the attempt to emulate Thatcherite resolution. So much for “tough choices”. Perhaps the only consolation is that this was a relatively trivial issue on which to make such a cowardly retreat.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Funding opera

Sir: David Cloke (Letters, 7 November) asserts that we will all be poorer as a result of the new proposals for the Royal Opera House. He should be more careful in making such sweeping generalisations. The changes will make not the slightest difference to my life nor to the lives of the vast majority of the population who, like me, have no interest in opera but whose taxes have provided hundreds of millions of pounds in subsidy to it over the years. With the NHS and education desperately short of funds, it is time this was stopped. PETER WHITE
London NW1

Sir: Performing arts bodies are unusual organisations. The culture and spirit of each organisation is unique and seminal to its artistic integrity and output. The proposal to merge venues for English National Opera, Royal Opera House and Ballet (report, 4 November) seems likely to seriously undermine the independent spirit of each, and is inevitably an incremental step towards merger.

However, great opportunities for economies undoubtedly exist. The challenge facing Sir Richard Eyre in his review must be to find a solution which maintains the companies’ independence whilst reducing operating costs. Without evicting ENO from the Coliseum, there is plenty of scope for the central London companies to share resources. For example they could share, *inter alia*, booking offices, accounts and human resources departments, utility contracts, engineering services, and so on.

There are many ways in which the companies could combine resources to achieve economies, without having to sacrifice their individual character. MATTHEW EATOUGH
The Cast Reduction Partnership
London W1

Sir: Chris Smith’s laudable desire for a “people’s opera” (report, 4 November) should in fact be for at least three opera houses in London. They should be partially subsidised by the state, as in Germany, which has over 100 opera houses; Britain has six. Any reduction in the

number of London stages would prevent the public from gaining personal access. On a per capita basis, London should have 21 orchestras and 10 opera houses, if compared to the city of Munich. DENIS VAUGHAN
Executive Director
The Lottery Promotion Company Limited
London WC2

Liberal Democrats

Sir: You say (“Blair’s project is simple: squeeze the middle class”, 5 November) that the Liberal Democrats cannot develop as an opposition to Tony Blair “without turning their backs on most of what they believe in”. I am at a loss to understand what you think we believe in.

We have believed since the Forster Education Act of 1870 in properly funded public services as a means to equality of

opportunity and to freedom from fear. We cannot reconcile tuition fees for students with equality of opportunity, nor can we reconcile funding levels which lead to the slow death of the NHS, with freedom from fear.

Our party constitution commits us to defending those enslaved by poverty. We cannot reconcile this with cuts in benefits for single parents nor with further restrictions on asylum seekers.

We will no more turn our backs on these beliefs than we will turn our backs on our belief in constitutional reform or on Europe. Our present policy of constructive opposition is the only possible point of equilibrium. EARL RUSSELL
House of Lords
London SW1

The writer is Liberal Democrat Spokesman on Social Security

Acting equitably

Sir: I write as a professional actor under the present Equity instruction not to take some advertising work during the current dispute. Like others I am dismayed that, as you report, some DJs are taking up the work which would otherwise have gone to actors (“Dispute helps Smaestey and Nicey rediscover their voices”, 7 November.)

The greatest subsidy that the arts receive in Britain is the willingness of thousands of performers, who have not been selected for “stardom”, to work for very low or subsistence wages so that, for example, Shakespeare, live music and dance can be seen in corners of the UK which commercial and market forces would not deign to touch.

Others suffer chronic unemployment for long periods in a patient faith in their own talent and the work they love and reverence – often to be vindicated after years of poverty and some

contempt – when they achieve a modicum of final success. Television and other commercials have been one way in which professionals have been able to survive in the barbarity of the British economic attitude to lesser-known performers.

Perhaps the advertisers are in dire straits and are having to economise on actors’ earnings to make ends meet. The contrast I find, however, between their often bloated lifestyles and the plight of committed young, and not so young, performers, makes me suspect that their interests are not for the artistic prosperity of the nation, but for personal greed. IAN FLINTOFF
London SW6

Louise Woodward

Sir: Kevin McGrath and John Heawood (Letters, 6 November) choose to ignore the fact that the acquittal of the guilty is as much

a miscarriage of justice as the conviction of the innocent. If the jurors in the Woodward trial thought her guilty of a serious crime, they were quite right to have a “prejudice in favour of conviction”, and were presumably aware of the further expedients available to the judge.

By their own logic your two correspondents would no doubt wish to condemn those English jurors who, in the days of capital punishment, found “not guilty” because they didn’t want an execution rather than because they thought the defendant innocent. DAVID EVANS
Leeds

Sir: The victims of the Boston Massacre were not “ordinary citizens of Boston” (Letters, 5 November) as American propaganda has led generations of children on both sides of the Atlantic to believe. Most 18th-century ports had

a town “mob” (Boston, notoriously, had two) whom local politicians ignored at their peril. On the evening of 5 March 1770, members of one Boston mob began stoning a lone soldier outside the Customs House. Other soldiers who came to his aid were treated similarly, many of the crowd striking the soldiers’ muskets with clubs and sticks. Eventually, a musket went off, at which point the other soldiers also fired, killing five “ordinary citizens”, at least three of whom were known troublemakers.

Each year thereafter, an oration was given in the City Hall, reminding everyone of the “massacre” and other British “atrocities” which, within two years, had come to include rape, arson, the slaughter of women and children, and – most serious of all for Bostonians – wanton destruction of private property. BRENDAN MORRISSEY
London W8

Musical education

Sir: With regard to your articles on the lack of musical instrument teaching to primary schools (4 November), I thought you might be interested to know of the contrast in Welsh primary schools.

My grandson, aged 8, attends a very small village school in Ceredigion, where every child over 7 learns the recorder in school time and is given the opportunity to learn another instrument free of charge. He has chosen to learn the trumpet and his parents pay a mere £15 a term for hire of the instrument. The children at his school sing superbly and have several good soloists.

This, of course, is Welsh culture and it would be very interesting to do a survey of the difference between English and Welsh opportunities for young musicians.

Here in Kent, our county music school has been in great financial difficulties and has had to suffer giant cutbacks. They can only offer instrument teaching at £60 a term. As a consequence of this loss of opportunity children in our local primary schools have lost interest and the motivation to make music on an instrument. Far easier to play on a computer. JANET FRASER
Ashford, Kent

Sir: Is the principal purpose of instrumental tuition for children to provide cannon fodder for orchestras? If, as I suspect, more than 80 per cent taught have given up by the age of 18, this rate of failure would not be tolerated in, say, reading or maths. Are we educating to provide life skills for many or a tiny minority of skilled music factory hands? PETER COURT-HAMPTON
Plymouth, Devon

Bald truth

Because of a production error, this letter appeared in incomplete form in Saturday’s edition.

Sir: We have yet another “cure” for baldness (report, 5 November), albeit at the cost of one’s sex drive. As someone with more libido than hair, I wonder if anyone is working on a treatment for vanity. D DIGHT
Wantage, Oxfordshire

And now, from the Royal National Opera Coliseum, a tragic-comedy set to music



MILES KINGTON

The proposed merger between the Royal Opera House (Coveot Garden) and the English National Opera (Coliseum) has been seen by some as a workable rescue plan. To others it seems rather like putting two non-swimmers in a leaky lifeboat. Others still have compared it to putting all your money on the last two horses in a race, instead of just on the last horse.

Only one person has seen the situation for what it really is: a brilliant setting for a new opera. That person is myself.

Yes, as soon as the true state of the opera house emergency was revealed, I immediately recognised the ingredients for a good old-fashioned opera

plot. There were the two opera houses, like two ancient rival families, not only hating each other but both threatened with eviction, because they have both run out of money. One so proud that it will not speak English, the other so proud that it will not speak any foreign language. Both threatened with extinction if they do not admit the common horde through their portals. Classic opera figures such as the grandee (Lord Selwyn Gummer’s Brother), the tragic apparition (the ghost of Jeremy Isaacs), the buffoon (Lord Selwyn Gummer’s Brother) and so on...

Well, I have now finished the first draft of my opera, which isn’t bad for a week’s work, and

am looking for backers, which is why I am bringing you a sample of the résumé today.

The opera opens at midnight in the open space before Covent Garden, where the ghost of Jeremy Isaacs appears to the current Royal Opera House management and warns them against making the same mistakes he did, in a moving aria called “Don’t Let the Telly People In!”

When a man From the BBC Wanted to make A film of me I thought it no harm To chance my arm. Oh, how wrong can one man be!

They made me look foolish

They made me look stupid. As if I got everything wrong. And now I see that I looked like a prat ‘Cos that’s what I was all along!

There is unrest among the opera people at this confession, but it is quelled when they realise that the ghost of Jeremy Isaacs has another verse to sing. So don’t let the telly people in!

Don’t let the cameras nose about! They can pick up what they like On their little roving mike So be sure to kick the little bastards out! Oh, I thought I knew the score

Having managed Channel 4 But they made me look a wally just the same. Now I come back from the grave

To warn you to behave, And out to bring the Opera House to shame. As the vision fades, Lord Selwyn Gummer’s Brother steps forward and urges the company to ignore the dire warnings of the ghost and to look on the bright side:

Lord Gummer’s Brother: Friends! Fellow opera lovers! Listen not to this discredited man! Yes, yes, he was in charge of the Opera House, but he failed. What does he know? Voice from Backs: What does anyone know about running an

opera house? Everyone we appoint fails! They either resign or get kicked out! Who can we turn to?

Lord Gummer’s Brother: To me, my friends. Was I not, until 1996, chairman of the National Lottery Advisory Board on the Arts? Have we not just received a whacking great award from the lottery? Far be it from me to put two and two together... Voice from the Backs: Far be it from me to cavil, but why do we need all this money? In the 19th century, operas always made money. Verdi and Wagner were money-spinners! But the very same operas today lose money. Why? Lord Gummer’s Brother: Be-

cause everything that is really decent and worthwhile costs money. Stately homes lose money! Opera loses money! The Tory Party is in debt! But while we have got the National Lottery to bail us out... He sings:

Oh we can’t run a thing And we’re not Rudolf Bing. We’re a most ineffectual coterie. We’re terribly posh. And we waste all our dosh. But who cares while we’ve got the lottery!

If no backer gets in touch, I may have to bring you more of this. Meanwhile, if anyone knows a better rhyme for lottery than coterie, let him get in touch, too!

Banning cigarette ads in Formula One won't work



PETER
MANDELSON
KEEPING OUR
PROMISES

Bravery is a concept much loved by political commentators, who use it to categorise political decisions. An assessment of whether a decision is brave is sometimes seen as more important than whether it is right. Last week was a case in point. The decision by the Government to seek an exemption for Formula One from a ban on tobacco sponsorship in sport was seen by some to have failed the bravery test. There was a widespread comment that the Government should have had the courage to take on the tobacco companies and Formula One and ban all advertising on the cars that whizz around European tracks.

It is important to state, therefore, why our decision to exempt Formula One from the European directive banning tobacco sponsorship sprang not from cowardice, but from a hard-headed assessment of the situation. We decided to do what would actually work. Consider the facts: a ban on tobacco sponsorship in Formula One would actually have had the perverse effect of producing more cigarette advertising on our televisions. This is because Formula One would simply have shifted its races out of Europe into Asia, where no restrictions on sponsorship apply. Pictures of these races would be just as popular as now and children would have seen more cigarette advertising. Asian countries are pressing strongly to hold more races, and this would certainly suit the tobacco companies who are keen to tap into the enormous and rapidly expanding Asian market. Already 70 per cent of Formula One's television viewers are in the Asia-Pacific region.

Formula One is in a unique position. Sponsorship is far more weighted to tobacco than in any other sport – it represents about 90 per cent of the total. Sponsorship could not realistically be changed except over a long time. The threat of a move East in the face of a ban was therefore very real indeed. That is why exemptions for Formula One are commonplace in other countries. For example, Australia, which has some of the toughest anti-sponsorship and advertising laws, expressly exempts Formula One, as does Portugal and Austria. Other countries make special provision for it.

We decided therefore that we would take the best practical steps to secure our objectives. The EU directive on this will simply not work. The test is what works. We are pursuing action that will.

The UK already has a voluntary code of Formula One sponsorship. At the UK Grand Prix there are no tobacco logos or brand names on the cars. Our aim is to achieve such standards worldwide. We are seeking to end advertisements on drivers' helmets, overalls and baseball caps. We will be working with the governing body, FIA, to apply this to every race. In addition, we are seeking to get health warnings covering 30 per cent of the hoardings on the tracks. This represents the best practical way to tackle the amount of cigarette advertising on our screens.

I make no apology for saying that there was also another consideration in our decision last week. Britain is the original home of the Formula One industry. It makes 80 per cent of the cars and employs roughly 50,000 people in connected industries. To lose any significant part of the industry would be disastrous.

I believe therefore that we have taken the correct decision, in the British interests. It was not the easy way out, but it was the right one.

Our critics have used this episode as an example of a government U-turn. A media that found it easy to expose the betrayal and broken promises of the Major years has set about trying to find similar broken promises from this Government. It is important that these allegations are not allowed to stick, because they are not valid.

Take, for example, the charge that we have broken our promise on fox hunting. That is simply not true. We promised a free vote and we are delivering one. Mike Foster's Bill will have enough time to progress if it is not filibustered by its opponents, like any other Private Member's Bill. But there was never a promise to give government time.

Similarly, those who seek to portray our proposals for the funding of higher education as a breach of promise are wide of the mark. We were explicit in our support of Dearing and on the principle of graduates paying back maintenance on an income-related basis, before the election. In government, we are facing up to the tough decisions that will enable universities to get up off their knees and lift the cap on student numbers imposed by the Tories.

The charge of betrayal on Formula One, fox hunting and Dearing are therefore baseless. It is interesting that many of the people making the charges are the same ones who before the election were saying that our programme was not radical enough. Now that has been shown to be false, the attack has changed. It must be resisted. We must continue to focus on the big picture of delivering our central election promises – on crime, health, education, youth unemployment. And continue to face up to the tough decisions, even if they cannot all be popular.

The row over Formula One sponsorship has shown that, after six months in government, there is a new media climate that is looking for mistakes. We should respond to this by sticking to our contract with the people, and defending ourselves robustly against charges that do not stand up. After years of broken promises under the Tories, it is easy to be cynical about politics. Our challenge is to ensure that the cynics cannot rely on the facts, and are forced to invent.

At a theatre near you: the tragedy of misdirected lottery funding



POLLY
TOYNEEBE
FINANCING
THE ARTS

Barely a stone's throw from the mighty £800m millennium Dome is the Greenwich Theatre. Despite years as the only theatre company in a vast swathe of south-east London, despite years of highly praised productions, it has just been told that it will lose its government grant and the company will close. The sum needed to keep it open? Just £210,000.

The theatre's talented artistic director of the last seven years, Mathew Francis, is to go. The fine 450-seat building will probably stay open, paid for by Greenwich Council, staggering on with an occasional seedy travelling production by minor commercial impresarios, amateur dramatics and operatics, acrobatics classes, bingo and anything else to fill the place. But there will be no more bold original home-grown productions. No more Juliet Stevenson playing *The Duchess of Malfi*. No more original Dickens adaptations at Christmas, or more new plays by Nigel Williams or Julian Mitchell. Currently the theatre is packed out with a widely acclaimed new production of Miller's *View from the Bridge*, with an audience that has already drawn nearly 4,000 local school children. The theatre takes in more box office money than the Royal Court.

People living from Eatham to Deptford will now have no theatre company. Those who think London already has a lion's share of the arts should remember that most people living in this area are no more likely to travel into the West End, or to see themselves as central Londoners than people living in Reading or St Albans. This theatre is a prime example of how a distinguished arts venue gives lustre, glamour, community and identity to a neighbourhood only a tiny part of



The final curtain? Classic Greenwich Theatre productions such as *The Three Sisters* with Mia Farrow in 1973 will now no longer be staged

which is posh, the rest very poor indeed. It casts a bright light for many miles around, even among those who may only visit it once in a while or not at all, for their children will.

Greenwich is by no means the only arts company in danger. The highly praised Gate Theatre in west London is now also to close, for lack of a mere £40,000. But how can so many established and excellent arts venues around the country be in deadly peril at a time when the lottery is pouring more money into the arts than anyone ever dreamed of? Because the lottery money, despite changes to be made in the upcoming arts Bill, can still only be used to fund new projects.

In the last three years, the government arts budget has been cut by £20m. An unprecedented 100 small performing arts companies have closed since 1992. Everywhere the cuts have salami-sliced the arts to the point where many

others may close. The London Arts Board which is withdrawing Greenwich's funding does so with a heavy heart, and worries about who it will have to cut next.

All this calamity is hitting the arts just when its budget of £181m has been more than doubled by £200m from the lottery. (It was £250m until some was taken away for health and education in a sensible redistribution.) At first, all arts lottery money had to be spent on new buildings, so a dazzling cornucopia of miraculous projects are springing up everywhere, from Milton Keynes, Salford and Gateshead to Walsall, Sheffield and Wolverhampton. But some of these, risked becoming magnificent white elephants – great buildings, but no money to put anything on in them. So the recent White Paper wisely shifts money from buildings to the people and arts inside.

Yet the sacrosanct principle that all lottery money must be

spent on new projects remains largely unbreached. The principle was a good one for there is always a danger governments will cheat on the lottery if they can: the avaricious Treasury itches to get its hands on lottery money, using it to top up an ever shrinking arts budget.

However, keeping the Treasury's itchy fingers off the lottery has led to an absurd distortion in arts spending policy. For example, the Greenwich company, even as it closes, has a lottery bid in for £5m to build air-conditioning, a restaurant and a new studio theatre. These would be good crowd-pulling extras, but what the company needs to survive is core funding, says their departing artistic director. If £5m of lottery money were available, it would be far better spent by placing it in a trust to guarantee the theatre's future for the next 25 years. The lottery, though, can't and won't do that: it only pays for extras and new activities. In Greenwich's

case, that would be extra to nothing.

There is a simple answer to this, but it requires the Treasury to breach one of its many arbitrary rules. It would have to agree to ring-fence the present small arts budget for, say, the next 10 years (or at least for five) signing its name in blood to no more cuts. Then both the lottery and the government money could be merged and spent sensibly where it's most needed, for running costs of penurious existing companies, galleries etc.

The Treasury, of course, will fight tooth and claw against this, claiming, wrongly, that it never ever commits budgets from one year to the next. But of course it does – in signing huge forward contracts of all kinds, from the building of new hospitals to buying £15bn worth of Euro-fighters.

So why not a long-term contract with the arts, in order to ensure that all the lottery money is spent as wisely as possible? Lord Gowrie, now departing from the Arts Council, is calling for this urgently. He has been at the sharp end, trying to administer the two separate budgets. With his Arts budget hand, he cuts valued existing companies; while with his lottery hand, he lavishes largesse on new projects.

This a battle which Chris Smith must have with the Treasury. If he were to win a stand-still budget and then merge it with the lottery money, he could nurture hundreds of the best existing arts programmes. As it is, they all face dilemmas not unlike the Royal Opera House, writ small. The more grant they lose, the higher their prices and the less youth, community and school work they can do to increase their audiences. Then everyone says that they are expensive, out of touch and elitist, sharpening the knives of the philistines in an ever downward spiral.

As for the Greenwich theatre, Peter Mandelson's ears should prick up in alarm on this one. His Dome needs to succeed. It needs popular support. But the complaints of the denizens of Greenwich will resonate loudly among others around the country with arts projects struggling to survive. The Dome's fat £800m will look symbolically gross if a small thriving theatre in its shadow collapses for want of just 0.026 per cent of that sum.

Paranoia was at its height – had I been near any strange ducks recently?



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE
AN EDUCATION
IN INFLUENZA

There was a time when I didn't believe in flu. Tone of voice is always difficult in print, so perhaps I should attach a small sketch to allow you to reconstitute this phrase exactly as it leaves me. Imagine a voice saying: "There was a time when I didn't believe in tigers." Then, limping badly, the speaker comes into view. His face is pallid with shock, there is a large, bleeding bite mark on his thigh and his clothes hang from him in ribbons. (For real verisimilitude you should add an ominous offstage growl; what follows is written largely in the supplicatory past tense but I'm not convinced the beast has finished toying with me yet).

Of course I knew that something called "flu" existed in the collective conscious, that it was invoked with great frequency at certain times of the year to account for absences or below par performance but I took this not as a serious medical diagnosis but as a kind of informal social understanding. In the pre-Birt days the BBC used to give its employees two *bisques* a year – a term borrowed from the Civil Service (which had in turn borrowed it from croquet). A *bisque* was a day off that could be taken without warning and without explanation – however disruptive it might be. And I thought that "the flu" was something like an informal substitute for this humane device. People took their "flu" days in twos, or occasionally threes, and you weren't expected to ask questions when

they reappeared looking perfectly hale on the fourth. And flu's distinction from proper diseases was emphasised by two further facts – nobody was ever expected to die from it (except for those so fragile they might have been carried off by the sound of a halloo bursting) and there was nothing much doctors could do. Indeed I thought "flu" suited them too because it was so much less embarrassing than saying, "Well, Mrs Simmons, you appear to be what we doctors call 'under the weather'."

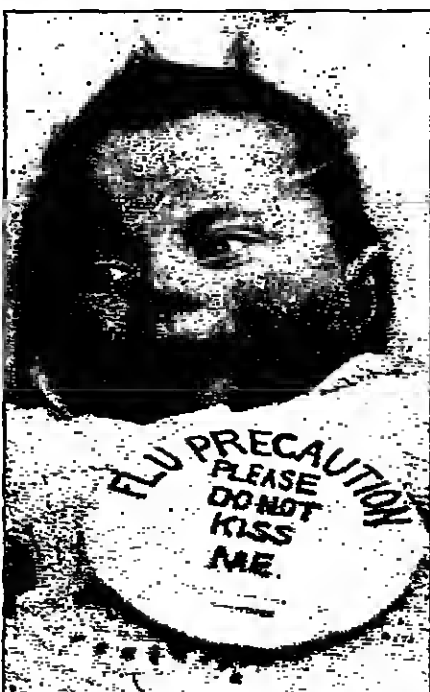
This delusion was fostered by the fact that I didn't get flu for years and years – so I had absolutely no personal experience to which I could attach the word. My re-education came in two parts. First I did the theory: I read a fascinating article in September's *New Yorker* about the hunt to discover the exact nature of the deadly Spanish Influenza 1918, a pandemic which killed over 20 million people. As well as detailing the attempt to exhume what may be the last well-preserved specimen of the virus – from seven Norwegian miners buried in permafrost in the Arctic town of Longyearben – Malcolm Gladwell's piece also described the worldwide viral meteorology by which new strains of this mercurial disease are identified and tracked. More frighteningly it described how waterfowl act as the "reservoir" for influenza strains. It is through them that the disease finds its way to other animals and then

to us and it is through them that any modern version of the 1918 horror would both emerge and spread. Occasionally the alarm systems are triggered; earlier this year, for example, a three-year-old boy from Hong Kong died after contracting an entirely new strain of avian flu, a case that had virologists running up their international phoozie hills for weeks, until it became clear it was a highly unusual case, rather than the first of millions.

Then last week I did my practical. I got flu and discovered just what a dolorous assembly of symptoms that vague word describes. I still think that "pain" would be a little too *fortissimo* for any of them taken in isolation. Indeed there's a brief moment, when you first decide to surrender to the shakiness and take to your bed, when there's something almost delicious about it. "So this is what I've been missing," I thought as I lay tucked up snug well before bedtime, relishing the way shivers would scud across the body and then disappear, like

a sea-breeze goose-bumping a sunbather on a hot summer day.

But then other instruments take up the burden: a whole orchestra of twinges, spasms, aches and cramps which result in an atonal cacophony of dis-



Photograph: Hulton Getty

comfort. Lying in your clammy pit of tangled sheets you struggle to work out the principles of composition. What is the reason for the antipodal line played out between your kneecap (which something is trying to prise free from the cartilage) and that piercing

note from the hinge of your jaw? Is the theme carried by the bed of embers lying at the back of your chest (occasionally riddled into a livelier flame by a vein-popping cough) or by the glissando bone-ache which slithers down both femurs? Does the *ostinato* of nausea suggest some convulsive upheaval is in the offing? And why do the creaks and darting pains in your skull summon up the image of a very fat man skating on rotten ice?

It is all very dissonant and modern, but you have plenty of time to try and work it out – the performance will last for days and there is no interval. Because insomnia is thrown in too (nice finishing touch from the virus) the mind tends to wander down some very cranky pathways. Forty-eight hours in, my paranoia had reached its height. Had I been sitting too near any strange ducks recently? And if so, then how was I going to persuade my doctor to contact the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta before it was too late?

I feel I have graduated in flu now. I don't want to take the course again. Indeed I would be very happy if I never coughed again (mostly because every cough is currently accompanied by the sensation of someone testing a stapler against my left temple). But at least I know for sure the word isn't just a euphemism for "couldn't be bothered to get out of bed this morning". From now on I am a devout believer.

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Margaret Potter

Margaret Whittington, illustrator: born Heathrow, Middlesex 12 June 1916; married 1939 Alick Potter; died 24 October 1997.

Margaret Potter was one of those children's illustrators still instantly recognisable to anyone who first enjoyed her work 50 years ago. Her bright colours and easy, good-humoured line always managed to impart an immediate feeling of general well-being, whatever the accompanying text.

She was born Margaret Whittington, the daughter of a farmer living in a Tudor farmhouse where Heathrow Airport is now situated, and studied at the Ealing School of Art and Chelsea Polytechnic. This training made her proficient in draughtsmanship with pen and pencil: she later added lithography and animal portrait painting to her skills.

After a spell as a commercial artist, she turned briefly to domestic science, becoming a travelling cookery demonstrator illustrating her points with cartoon sketches drawn on the spot. In 1939 she married Alexander ("Alick") Potter, an architect who was also a conscientious objector. The couple

spent the Second World War running a hostel for Irish agricultural workers in mid-Wales, and it was here that their first joint work, *A History of the Countryside* (1944), was created.

This became number 37 in the famous Puffin Picture Book series, conceived by Noel Carrington. While the first titles, launched with typical Allen Lane optimism in December 1940, concentrated on wartime topics, later editions were influenced by the perceived needs of evacuated children to learn more about the countryside. One title, *S.R. Badminton's Trees in Britain*, was so successful it was later adopted as a set text in an agricultural college.

The Potters' book was much more innovative, starting briskly with the Stone Age and ending 32 pages later with a severe indictment of 1930 "ribbon development". Even here, Margaret's high spirits still broke through: the offending suburban street stretching into the distance through otherwise virgin countryside is coloured a very jolly red, and an ice-cream man is seen plying his trade while horses gambol in the fields beyond. In other pictures, running jokes help make

a somewhat didactic text extra palatable. The alternating black and white ink drawings also provide children with enough detail to warrant constant re-reading. This lively little book was chosen by the National Book League as one of the 50 best published that year.

The next Puffin commission, *The Buildings of London* (1945), was equally good, and with its predecessor played an important part in raising children's consciousness about their environment while very possibly stimulating some of the future architects and town planners still to come. More Puffins followed, including two of those magical "cut-out" books written by L.A. Dovey: *The Cotswold Village* (1947) and *A Half-Timbered Village* (1948).

With Alick again, *Houses* (1948) described some of the great buildings of Britain, a number of which were by then in a bad state. Their loving depiction in these pages could only have added to the growing national mood that eventually caused the Government, somewhat late in the day, to do something more positive to ensure the survival of those notable houses that still existed.

In 1957 Alick Potter was ap-

pointed Founder, Head of Department and Professor of Architecture at the University of Khartoum. Margaret's official position was Women's Student Warden, but she did much more, in particular building up an excellent slide library of Islamic architecture. The busy couple also travelled widely in Africa, India and Pakistan, leaving no time for further writing or illustrating after the appearance of *Interiors* (1957), an amusing, historically accurate account of changing tastes in domestic design through the ages.

But in 1984 Margaret and Alick Potter produced their swan-song, *Everything is Possible*. This describes their life in Sudan, takes the story on to Belfast, where Alick moved as Professor of Architecture in 1965, and finally ends with Gorseach in North Wales, the couple's beautiful retirement home. Margaret's last five years were spent in hospital following a severe stroke. She is best remembered, however, by an active life always lived to the full and as part of a creative and loving husband-wife team that enriched everyone and every place encountered along the way.

— Nicholas Tucker



A living-room of c1931-32: illustration by Margaret Potter to Margaret and Alexander Potter's *Interiors*, 1957

Jacques Derogy

Jacques Weitzmann (Jacques Derogy), journalist and writer: born Paris 24 July 1925; married (one son, two daughters); died Paris 30 October 1997.

It is sad to think that Jacques Derogy will not be able to follow the trial of the former Vichy official, Maurice Papon, now taking place in Bordeaux. So far it has been concerned with events in France during the 1940s, and with certain episodes that occurred when Papon was Prefect of Police in Paris during the 1960s. Both subjects in which Derogy was an expert.

He was ever called an historian, but always hailed as the country's outstanding investigative journalist, meaning that when some mysterious event occurred he discovered what had happened and sought to explain why it had happened. And whilst this meant questioning witnesses, interviewing judges and police, following up the hints and the hunches which distinguished the profession, it also meant discovering the relevant history.

He began his career as a journalist when very young. At the age of 19 he had taken refuge in the Resistance movement, mainly in the Ardèche department. His name was Jacques Weitzmann and with his father Henri, who was also a journalist, he was escaping from both Vichy and German road-blocks of Jews. With the Liberation, he took a degree in Philosophy and started to work for left-wing, anti-clerical newspapers like *Franc-Tireur* and *L'Intransigeant*.

His main interests were in the creation of the state of Israel and in attempts, usually British, to stop Jewish settlement there, and in social movements at home. He wrote in favour of birth control, which brought him into conflict with Jeanette Vermeersch, the dominant woman in the French Communist Party, with which he had had some sympathy.

In 1959, he joined the weekly paper *L'Express* and he was to continue working there until 1987, when he joined another weekly, *L'Evénement du Jeudi*. It was during this period that he accomplished some of his most spectacular pieces of writing.

There was, for example, the affair of the Moroccan opposition leader who was living in Paris and who, on 29 October 1965, was preparing to enter the Brasserie Lipp, on the Boulevard Saint Germain, when he was stopped by two French police. At their request he was driven away and taken to Fontenay-le-Vicomte, in the department of the Essonne. So far as the world was concerned, he was never seen again, and his body has never been found. It was *L'Express* which published the news that it was General Mohammed Oufkir, the Moroccan Minister of the Interior, who had been stabbed and killed Ben Berka, whom he had considered to be a dangerous political enemy.

Derogy also dealt with the massacre at Auril, in the countryside near to Marseilles. On 18 July 1981, a group of masked men captured a family of five, including a little boy of seven, who were eating their midday meal together. Subsequently, they and the head of the family were all killed. The reason for this, as Derogy discovered, was that the men were all members of an underground

Gaullist organisation, the Service d'Action Civique, which had been created to protect the Gaullists from the vengeance of Algerian settlers. But this parallel police had become corrupt. Derogy discovered that the head of the killer group, Jean-Joseph Maria, claimed that he had been a colonel of paratroopers who had seen much more active service, but in reality he had done his military service as a private soldier in Nancy.

The investigation for which Derogy was justly most proud was that which concerned Touvier. This began on 23 November 1971, when President Pompidou signed a decree which conveyed a full pardon to Paul Touvier, a name that the French public, Jean Derogy proceeded to find out who Touvier was and why he had been pardoned.

He discovered that he was investigating someone who had been a member of the Milice, the special force in Vichy France that had proclaimed its loyalty to the Germans. Touvier had been found guilty of several capital crimes that had been committed in the region of Lyons, and although he had succeeded in taking flight he had been twice condemned to death in his absence. By the statute of limitations the death sentences expired in 1967, but since he was still inconvenienced by some laws (that he should not live in Paris, that he could not inherit from his father) he had applied for a presidential pardon. He was supported by certain church dignitaries.

The revelations of Derogy were part of the process whereby France was discovering its past. His article was the starting point for the long process which led to the capture and the trial of Touvier in 1994.

Derogy never made the mistake of becoming a one-issue man. After two articles on Tou-



Derogy: scoops

vier he moved on. The Fifth Republic, like the Fourth, was full of subjects which demanded investigation. The powers of the Elysée police unit, for example, or who was responsible for the Greenpeace venture which led to the death of an innocent photographer. Very often working with Jean-Marie Pootat, Derogy showed that the achievement of a scoop was the result of hard work. He was always accompanied by a briefcase overflowing with papers. He talked well, but he was an excellent listener.

One cause that he always supported was that of Israel. But he opposed the Netanyahu programme of expansion, and he believed in the revival of the peace process. He published a piece on this in *Le Monde*, on 13 August. And his signature appeared on a similar article the day after his death.

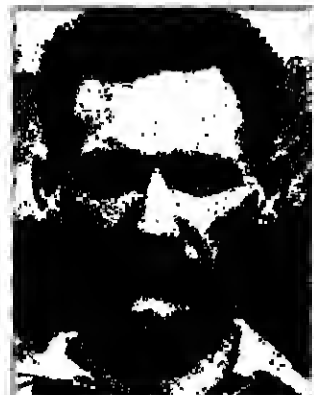
— Douglas Johnson

Paul Ricard, businessman, died Paris 6 November, aged 88. Honorary president of the Ricard drinks company he ran un-

til 1968. He invented the recipe for Ricard pastis, a mixture of liquorice, aniseed and star aniseed, in 1932.

Ray Daniel

William Raymond Daniel, footballer: born Swansea 2 November 1928; played for Swansea Town 1943-46, Arsenal 1946-53, Sunderland 1953-57, Cardiff City 1957-58, Swansea Town 1958-59, Hereford United 1960-67; capped 21 times for Wales 1950-57; married (one daughter); died Clevedon 6 November 1997.



Daniel: glorious football
Photograph: Hulton Getty

Ray Daniel was a footballing thoroughbred and proud of it. A bulwark of the Welsh game during the 1950s, the most glorious decade of his history, he was one of the original ball-playing centre-halves in an era when brown tended to out-strip finesse as a defender's chief requirement.

Indeed, he boasted the delicate touch of an inside-forward and, as an extremely self-confident, intensely sociable man, there was little he liked better than to demonstrate his dexterity to an admiring audience. A favourite trick was to drop a

half-crown coin on to his left foot, flick it to his right, then on to thigh and shoulder before depositing it bewilderingly into his top pocket.

Daniel rose to soccer prominence during the early 1940s in Swansea, stepping off a remarkable conveyor-belt of talent which was to include Trevor Ford, John and Mel Charles, Ivor and Len Alfchurch, Cliff Jones and Terry Medwin. Only 15 when he made his first-

team debut for the Swans as a full-back in wartime competition, he exhibited such potential that he was snapped up by the mighty Arsenal while still an amateur in 1946.

Two months after arriving at Highbury – following in the footsteps of his brother, Bobby, who was killed in the war – Daniel turned professional, but, although a starchy future was predicted, the young Welshman was to serve a lengthy apprenticeship in the shadow of the influential Les Compton.

That did nothing to harm his international prospects, however. He wooed the first of his 21 full caps against England at Roker Park in 1950 and was called to his country's colours three times while still an Arsenal reserve.

It was not until 1951/52 that he secured a regular club berth, finishing that landmark campaign at Wembley, where the north Londoners lost the FA Cup Final to a late goal by Newcastle United. However, though the Magpies took the silverware, the glory went to the Gunners,

who battled bravely with 10 men for most of the match after losing Walley Barnes to injury. Daniel earned a special mention in dispatches for playing in constant pain, his forearm encased in plaster as a legacy of an accident in a game at Blackpool three weeks earlier.

The disappointment of that defeat was swept away in the most emphatic manner as Arsenal lifted the League Championship in 1952-53 with Daniel, now at his imperious peak, missing only one match and excelling in a formidable half-back trio alongside Alex Forbes and the skipper, Joe Mercer.

Playing glorious football, combining creativity with the solidity which might be expected of a powerful six-footer, he was described as a Welsh equivalent of Neil Franklin, arguably the finest central defender England ever had. Firmly established at Highbury, he seemed likely to consolidate his role as an Arsenal stalwart for the remainder of the decade, but a disagreement over play-

ing styles contributed to a surprise switch.

Sunderland, then in the top flight and known as the "Bank of England club", were in the process of assembling a star-studded side and Daniel was persuaded to join his friend and fellow Welsh international Trevor Ford on Wearside.

After the £27,500 move – a record for a defender at that time – Daniel gave some of his most polished displays, helping to achieve fourth place in the First Division in 1954/55. But in the long term the so-called team of all the talents over-gelled, results were frustratingly poor and when the manager Bill Murray experimented with the Welshman at centre-forward it was to little avail. Matters worsened in 1957 when the club became embroiled in controversy over illegal payments to footballers, several of whom, including Daniel, were briefly suspended.

That year proved a watershed in his career. He lost his place in the Wales team to Mel

Charles – thus missing out on the rousing progress to the World Cup quarter-finals the following summer – and he was transferred to the Second Division Cardiff City for £7,000. Within a few months he had returned to his first love, Swansea Town, before slipping out of the Football League to join Hereford United. Daniel spent seven years at Edgar Street in the relatively undemanding arena of the Southern League, including a stint as player-coach, before leaving the game in 1967.

Thereafter he worked successively as a publican in Swansea, as a regional manager for the Courvoisier brandy company and as a sub-postmaster in Cockett, a village on the outskirts of his home town.

Daniel will be remembered as one of the most gifted and charismatic of all Welsh players, if one whose prime might have lasted a little longer; and as a warm-hearted, wisecracking fellow who lived his life to the full.

— Ivan Ponting

John Blackwell

John Blackwell, publisher: born Coventry 23 October 1937; married; died London 5 November 1997.

John Blackwell was a publisher of a kind rapidly becoming extinct, a senior editor who devoted himself to editing, including the time-consuming business of copy-editing, rather than seeking advancement in a corporate career.

He did not usually act as a "creative" editor, collaborating with an author in the development of a book. He preferred to work, by patient questioning and tactful suggestion, on a completed manuscript, tuning it and refining it, removing wrinkles and blemishes, and ensuring that nothing in the physical appearance of the printed text would interfere with the communication of the author's vision to the reader.

He had a remarkable men-

tal database of knowledge – technical, linguistic, literary – which saved many an author from embarrassing error. He was a perfectionist; and, since most writers are too, his expertise was highly valued by those fortunate enough to be edited by him. These included, at various times, Angus Wilson, André Brink, J.M. Coetzee, Michael Moorcock, George V. Higgins, Tom McGuane, Tom Sharpe, Malcolm Bradbury, Louis de Bernières and Tim Parks. He was my own editor for an unbroken 25 years.

John Blackwell was born in Coventry, and attended the King Henry VIII Grammar School in that city. He did his National Service in the Royal Navy, a three-year stint during which he was trained in intelligence, learned Russian, and perhaps acquired from the climate of espionage a habit of reticence about his personal life. Several intriguing stories of

Blackwell's surveillance exploits at this time are in circulation, one of them entirely reliable, but ooze probably without some basis in fact.

In 1958 he went up to Jesus College, Cambridge, to read English, and there met his wife, Pamela, whom he married in 1966. After holding a variety of short-term jobs, he edited the journal of the Iron and Steel Institute (acquiring a knowledge of heavy engineering with which he would later impress some of his authors) and then joined Secker & Warburg when it was an independent firm headed by Frederic Warburg, succeeded shortly afterwards by Tom Rosenthal. As the imprint was bought and sold in the era of corporate takeovers, as Tom Rosenthal's successors – David Godwin, Dan Franklin, Max Elieberg – came and went, John Blackwell remained, a valued custodian of the Secker tradition. That Secker con-



Blackwell: a perfectionist
Photograph: Coventry Evening Telegraph

tinued to publish a list of distinctive literary merit through these turbulent times was due in no small measure to his continuing presence.

Blackwell himself was happiest in the days when the firm occupied a tall, narrow, rambling house in Poland Street, Soho. His office was an attic

room at the top of a twisting, precipitous staircase, crammed to the eaves with an organised chaos of books, proofs, and manuscripts. There was always a bottle of white wine in the fridge, and the aroma of Gauloises in the air. If your meeting was well timed, there would be an adjournment to a nearby pub. He kept himself fit by cycling to work and regular skiing holidays – and continued to do so till his death.

But when the firm was acquired by Reed and moved to an open-plan office in Michelin House, he seemed less at ease. There was no room for organised chaos in his little cubicle. His favoured dress of jeans and denim shirt looked out of place among the sleek plastic surfaces.

The clumsily managed sale of Secker, along with other Reed imprints, to Random House earlier this year sad-

dened and angered him, and he became a freelance, editing his loyal authors from home. Reed-Elsevier, he commented, "are to be congratulated on a medical triumph: they have cloned the pig's ear." (The test-tube ewe, Daisy, was in the news at the time.)

One of the bores of being edited by Blackwell was being on the receiving end of witticisms like that. Even the briefest business communication was crafted and polished to give pleasure and entertainment to the addressee. He was also a brilliant hunch-writer. It is a matter for regret that he never made the step of writing a book himself. But innumerable books by others were improved and enhanced by his meticulous editing. He is survived by his wife and by a number of authors for whom the task of writing will seem lonelier than ever.

— David Lodge

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

ROBERTSON: John Albert, of Chantry Close, King's Langley, Hertfordshire, passed away at Watford General Hospital on Thursday 6 November 1997, aged 85 years. Funeral Service will take place at Christ Church Baptist, King's Langley, on Friday 14 November at 12.15pm, followed by committal at West Herts Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation, c/o J. Worley (Funeral Directors) Ltd, 48 Lown Lane, Hemel Hempstead, telephone 01462 253465.

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171 293 2011.

Birthdays

Sir Peter Baldwin, former Chairman, SE Thames Regional Health Authority; 75; Mr Robert Carrier, cookery writer, 74; Dame Frances Coulshead, former Director, WRAC; 93; Mr Frank Durr, racehorse trainer; 71; Mr Nigel Evans MP; 40; Mr Roger Farrance, former chairman, Electricity Association Services; 64; Miss Donna Fiorentino, model; 30; Sir Giles Loder Bt, a vice-president of the Royal Horticultural Society; 83; The Right Rev Lawrence Lushcombe, former Bishop of Brechin and Primate of the Episcopal Church in Scotland; 73; Mr Raymond Plummer, former President, Design and Industries Association; 81; Sir Tim Rice, lyricist; 53; Professor Elizabeth Robson, geologist; 69; Viscount Runciman of Devonport, author; 63; Sir William Byrie, former executive vice-president and chief executive, International Finance Corporation at

World Bank; 69; Mr Roy Schneider, actor; 62; Sir David Serpell, former senior civil servant; 86; Mrs Elizabeth Toulson, Chairman, WRVS; 49.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley GCB will be held in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields at 3pm on Monday 12 January 1998. Dress for the occasion will be Day Dress (Non-Ceremonial) or a Dark Lounge Suit. Those wishing to attend are invited to apply for tickets no later than Wednesday 26 November, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Ministry of Defence, Naval Personnel Secretariat 203, Room 222, Victory Building, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LS. Tickets will be dispatched on Monday 22 December.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York opens the M1 Science Park at Hekins Laboratories Limited, Watlington Way, Sandhurst, West and West opens the Stadium of Light, the new football ground of Sunderland Association Football Club, Sunderland, and visits Dartington Technical College, Dartington, Devon. The Princess Royal, President, Red Cross, Engineers for Disaster Relief, attends an Annual General Meeting at the Institution of Civil Engineers, London SW1 to open a new court building, Kingston Court, Kingston, Surrey, and, in Patron, Association of Combined Youth Clubs, attends an Annual General Meeting at the Abbey Community Centre, Great Smith Street, London SW1. Princess Alexandra attends a reception at St James's Palace to mark the 14th anniversary of Action for Blind People. The Duke of Kent, President, attends the Life After Stroke Award Ceremony at the Hotel Inter-Continental, Hamilton Place, London W1. The Duchess of Kent, President, attends the M1 Cancer Relief, attends the Christmas Market Preview, the Royal Horticultural New Hall, Vincent Square, London SW1.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

CASE SUMMARIES: 10 NOVEMBER 1997

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Costs

Royal Brompton Hospital NHS Trust v Chettle & ors CA (Aldous, Potter LJ) 23 Oct 1997.
A party who proceeded with an action, pending an appeal seeking to have the action struck out, did so at his own risk as to costs. If, therefore, he proceeded and the appeal

succeeded, it would normally be appropriate for him to bear all the costs of the action which had been reasonably incurred by the appellant during the period when the appeal was pending.

Peter Jennings (Rice-Jones & Smith) for the defendant; Martin Hutchings (Norton Rose) for the plaintiff.

Tax

Edmunds v Coleman (Inspector of Taxes); CHD (Lightman J) 4 Nov 1997.
The taxpayer, a television pro-

ducer, earned very small sums for freelance work taxed under Sch D Case II while he was also employed. He gave up his employment and earned large amounts for similar work. Neither the increased earnings nor the greater amount of time devoted to the freelance work meant that the taxpayer had commenced a new profession for the purposes of Sch D tax.

Timothy Brennan (IR Solicitor) for the Revenue; Jeremy Woolf (Brachers, Mendelson) for the taxpayer.

EMI Group Electronics Ltd v Coldcott (Inspector of Taxes); CHD (Neuberger J) 22 Oct 1997.

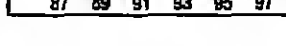
A payment in lieu of notice made to an employee pursuant to a term in his contract of employment was an emolument from the employment within s 19 of the Taxes Act 1988 and was taxable under Schedule E.

Michael Fleeth QC, Conrad McDonnell (Rice & Maw) for EMI Group; Laurence Henderson QC, Timothy Brennan (IR Solicitor) for the Revenue.

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Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1992*.

dial up interim profits of £10m (£673m) and BAA is expected to achieve around £10m at its half-way stage, up from £304m.

[illegible]

Euro row descends on CBI conference

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will today seek to capitalise on the rift between the Confederation of British Industry and the Tories over Europe by portraying Labour as the party of big business. Meanwhile the CBI's top brass last night attempted to diffuse the row over the European single currency which threatens to overshadow its annual conference, which starts in Birmingham today. Michael Harrison and Colin Brown report.

The peace moves by the CBI today came as the Government prepared to portray Labour as the natural party of business and exploit its disagreements with the Tory leader, William Hague, who will speak at the conference this afternoon following an address by the Chancellor in the morning.

Mr Brown will highlight the growing gulf between the Tory Party leadership and business by announcing that work is to begin immediately on preparations for business to use the euro if Britain joins the single currency after the next election.

With a sideswipe at Mr Hague, the Chancellor will tell the CBI that preparations for entry to the euro are "too important to leave to dogma and party politics". Mr Brown will say: "I believe there is an increasing consensus about the principles of the single currency. These preparations are not cosmetic but real."

For his part, Mr Hague will tell the conference that those arguing in favour of entry because they are afraid of being left behind are acting like "lemmings".

Sir Colin Marshall, the CBI president, stressed it was "not at war with any political party", while Adair Turner, director general, insisted he agreed with many of Mr Hague's views. Disagreement over one subject did not amount to a fundamental rift, he added. Mr Hague too tried to play down the differences between the



Kicking off the conference: Sir Colin Marshall (left) and Adair Turner promote England's bid to host the World Cup in 2006. Photograph: NEWS TEAM

Tory Party and the CBI as a disagreement between friends. "Sometimes you have to give your best friend candid advice," Mr Hague said on GMTV yesterday.

Mr Turner and Sir Colio insisted they wanted an "intelligent debate". But sources close to the Tory leader confirmed last night Mr Hague would stick to his text and refer to "lemmings".

He will say: "The danger for Britain is not that we will somehow be left behind in Europe. The real danger for us is that Europe could be left behind by the rest of the world."

However a CBI survey of 734 firms published last night showed that 72 per cent backed UK membership of a single currency once economic convergence was in place, while 16 per cent disagreed. However, only less than one-third of those polled replied and Dixons'

chairman, Sir Stanley Kahn, a well-known Conservative supporter and Eurosceptic, dismissed its findings. "There is a real danger that the CBI is over-representing the views of the vast majority of its members nor is it helping to create a healthy background for conducting business."

He added that there was a tendency in collective organisations for the loudest voice to be heard most. "The CBI has been hijacked by the loudest voices - the large organisations that have a determined self-interest in joining EMU."

Sir Colin said Sir Stanley represented "a minor minority viewpoint" and pointed out that large numbers of small and medium-sized companies had been polled in its surveys on EMU. "We are not at war with any political party, but where political parties raise issues and take positions... which we do

not think are in the best interests of business, we will take issue with them."

The CBI leadership denied that it was now aligned more closely to Tony Blair or that Labour had become the natural party of business.

Nevertheless, the Government will seek to exploit the CBI's disappointment with Mr Hague to project itself as the party more now in tune with business, particularly on Europe. The Chancellor will announce that Britain will seek millions of pounds in EU funds to publicise the euro. A standing committee including the Governor of the Bank of England, the CBI, TUC, the Chancellor and Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, will begin work this week on making preparations for the euro, similar to those of the board on decimalisation in the 1970s. A business advisory

group is also due to report on the euro.

Mr Blair will climax the conference with a live video link on Tuesday and before that delegates will be addressed by three other Cabinet members - Mr Brown, Mrs Beckett and David Blunkett, the Education Secretary. Mr Blunkett will today announce the launch of a task force involving senior business figures to tackle skills shortages while Mrs Beckett will formally launch her campaign to get industry to benchmark its performance against world best practice.

The last time the CBI surveyed its members on EMU in July it found that 94 per cent favoured membership as soon as possible or backed EMU in principle but with delayed entry. Mr Turner said the lower vote in favour this time did not necessarily suggest a move away from support for a single cur-

rency since the two surveys had asked different questions.

Despite criticisms that the surveys were not representative and too narrow, Mr Turner said there was no intention of it polling every member. However, he backed the three major political parties' commitment to hold a referendum on EMU.

The CBI survey of members' views also found them heavily critical of the educational standards of school leavers and increasingly in support of special levies other than direct taxes to finance public services. Four to 10 firms said numeracy standards and communications skills among school leavers were poor. Eight in 10 said they would be prepared to see specific services paid for out of levies such as road tolls.

Meanwhile, eight in 10 backed tough targets for reducing greenhouse gases by 15 per cent.

South West Water poised to sign deal to promote competition

South West Water will this week reveal a breakthrough in the drive to promote water competition by announcing a joint venture to poach business from other water companies. As Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent reports, the new tie-up is expected to invest at least £150m in innovative schemes.

After months of negotiations, South West Water has signed a deal with Enviro-Logic, the London consultancy that has pioneered competition in water and sewerage provision. The formal announcement is expected on Thursday, when South West Water announces its half-yearly profits.

Enviro-Logic, led by Jeremy Bryan, a former senior manager with Thames Water, has exploited provisions in the legislation allowing large industrial consumers to buy their water and sewerage services off alternative suppliers.

Under these so-called inset appointments, Enviro-Logic proposes to buy services off the incumbent water group at wholesale rates and then sell them on to the customer, claiming to cut bills substantially.

South West Water has agreed to pay around £750,000 for a 50 per cent stake in all of Enviro-Logic's schemes. A new joint venture company will be formed, with Mr Bryan and his team occupying most senior positions, although Keo Hill, South West's finance director, who negotiated the deal, will play a leading role. Using South West's financial muscle and ex-

perience, the new company expects to raise at least £150m to invest in competition schemes over the next few years. Mr Bryan declined to comment yesterday, but Enviro-Logic confirmed the negotiations, saying: "Enviro-Logic and South West are in advanced discussions about a joint venture to build on and develop Enviro-Logic's expertise in promoting competition in the water and sewerage sector. Agreement is expected in the next few days."

The venture is the biggest push to foster water competition, with 24 Enviro-Logic scheme applications currently being considered by Ofwat, the industry watchdog.

The schemes involve large industrial users such as brewers Bass and Guinness, alongside paper mills and hospital trusts.

The most ambitious is to take over water provision for Kings Hill in Kent, a small new town. Enviro-Logic's plans include the use of cheaper, part-treated "brown water" for flushing toilets. Of the other water companies, only Anglian Water, with two applications submitted, has shown serious interest in the potential for competition.

The venture with South West, which gives Enviro-Logic more credibility with Ian Byatt, the industry regulator, is likely to convince Mr Byatt to approve the first batch of schemes within the next six months. Mr Byatt was concerned that the law, which he wants changed, awarded new supply licences to predators in perpetuity.

Several Trent Water will lose most from South West's venture. Ofwat figures show nine of the inset applications are for firms in its area. Thames and Yorkshire face three each. None of Enviro-Logic's schemes planned to poach business from South West itself.

Car giants in the frame to do battle for control of Rolls-Royce

A five-way fight for control of the luxury car maker Rolls-Royce was in prospect last night as Mayflower, the automotive engineering group, was poised to commence battle with a £1bn bid for its parent group, Vickers. Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark report on the contenders.

As Mayflower's advisers, BZW, put the finishing touches to a bid likely to value Vickers at around £200m a share, it emerged that Ford of the US, BMW and Daimler Benz of Germany and Fiat of Italy were contemplating throwing their hats in the ring.

Another US car-maker, Chrysler, was also said to be studying the situation. The bid from Mayflower will depend on the financial markets stabilising and is expected to value Vickers at a little over £1bn.

Jobo Simpson, the acquisitive chief executive of Mayflower, which is little more than half the size of Vickers, is believed to have gathered enough support from City institutions to launch the bid without a bigger partner. The bid will be heavily debt-financed with about two-thirds borrowings

and one-third debt. This will entail Mayflower raising as much as £650m in debt with the remainder financed from equity, probably a discounted rights issue.

Mayflower may opt to offer Vickers' shareholders, led by Schroders with a 20 per cent stake, its own highly rated shares as an alternative to cash. Vickers, whose other interests span Challenger tanks, the Cosworth automotive engineering business and propulsion systems, has been in touch with the Takeover Panel and believes Mayflower should make its intentions clear by tomorrow.

Weekend reports that BMW would launch a full bid for Vickers in order to thwart Mayflower were being down-played yesterday. However, BMW will have a key role in deciding the outcome of the bid. It is a major partner of Rolls, supplying the new 12-cylinder engine for its next generation of models, and also has a close relationship with Mayflower, which is a supplier of body panels for both the MG and Land Rover, which are owned by BMW.

One City source said last night: "I would be very surprised if BMW were to launch a bid. It seems they have given their tacit approval to Mayflower."

It was pointed out that, were BMW to buy the group, then Ford would probably

cancel the contracts it has with Cosworth, a Vickers subsidiary.

However, it emerged yesterday that Ford in Detroit had registered an interest in Rolls with Vickers' financial advisers, Lazard Brothers. Ford of the UK had earlier denied it was contemplating a bid for the business.

Fiat, which owns the Italian luxury car-maker Ferrari and Alfa Romeo, is also understood to have indicated an interest while Chrysler is thought to be a potential bidder as well. Mayflower is likely to justify the highly-gear nature of its bid by arguing that the enlarged business would be highly cash generative and therefore able to withstand large levels of debt.

However, Sir Colin Chandler, chairman of Vickers, has already made it clear that one of the main planks of any bid defence would be an assault on the financial position of Mayflower. It also believes that if a widespread auction develops for Rolls, the City institutions that hold shares in both companies will refuse to underwrite any offer from Mayflower.

Meanwhile, Vickers has confirmed that it has won a £100m contract from Oman for 20 Challenger tanks, to be built in Leeds and Newcastle. Another order from Qatar is also in the offing.

BZW businesses to be sold to Crédit Suisse

Barclays is expected to announce early this week that BZW's UK and continental equities, equity capital, and mergers and acquisitions advisory businesses are to be sold to Crédit Suisse First Boston (CSFB). Last Tuesday, Barclays said it had entered exclusive discussions with CSFB about the sale of part of BZW. Barclays said it was still confident of selling BZW's Australasian and Asia-Pacific divisions to other buyers. The company dismissed weekend reports that it was plotting a £50m takeover of Legal & General as "market speculation".

St Gobain to bid for RBB

St Gobain, the French glass group, is planning to make a bid, which could be worth £800m, for Redland's majority-owned roofing business, RBB, in a move that would spoil Lafarge's £1.7bn hostile offer for the Redland group. St Gobain, which is being advised by NM Rothschild, will be in head-to-head competition with the Bras family, which wants to buy Redland's stake and is the minority owner of RBB.

Banking bonuses to soar

Investment banking bonuses will leap 30 per cent this year, according to the Annual Review of Global Banking Compensation, by Russell Reynolds Associates. In specialist areas such as high-yield and emerging markets, bonuses could rise by more than 50 per cent on last year's levels. Senior equity research analysts are most in demand, while top-ranked analysts in technology, media and health sectors will also secure generous bonuses. Elaine Small, managing director of Russell Reynolds' global banking practice, said: "The City is having another record year."

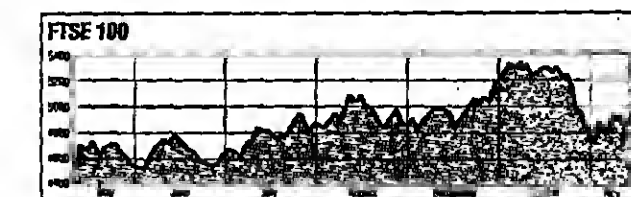
BDB gets digital green light

British Digital Broadcasting, owned by Carlton Communications and Granada Group, is expected to be granted its licence by the Independent Television Commission within weeks. The European competition authorities are thought to have given BDB the go-ahead to broadcast commercial digital television services from next year. However, as The Independent revealed, the European Commission is likely to demand that Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, does not sit on both the BSkyB board and the BDB board. Mr Robinson is chairman of BSkyB.

Mexico sets up \$2.5bn loan

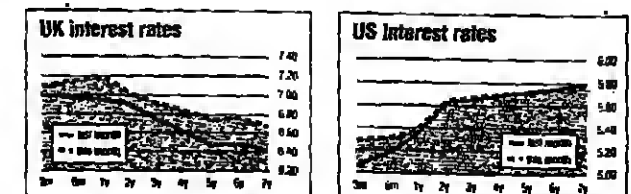
Mexico's federal government said yesterday it had set up a \$2.5bn contingency loan to help it ride through turbulence in financial markets. "With this line of credit, the federal government is looking to lessen the vulnerability of our economy to external shocks," the country's Finance Ministry said. The one-year loan was backed by 31 banks from 10 countries.

STOCK MARKETS



Indices	Close	Wk's chg	Wk's chg %	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield %
FTSE 100	2764.30	-78.00	-1.61	3307.3	2692.7	3.866
FTSE 250	4638.90	-4.70	-0.10	4963.2	4221.8	3.481
FTSE 350	2310.00	30.70	+1.31	2570.5	1935.7	3.629
FTSE All Share	2285.46	-28.41	-1.24	2507.68	1925.79	3.601
FTSE SmallCap	2307.9	-4.30	-0.19	2407.4	2127.5	3.235
FTSE Floating	1265.0	3.30	0.26	1346.5	1198.7	3.37
FTSE AIM	993.2	6.60	0.67	1138	965.9	1.021
Dow Jones	7981.32	199.65	2.71	8298.03	6074.1	1.77
Nikkei	15636.36	422.58	+2.78	21480.57	15062.32	0.875
Hang Seng	10104.50	-319.28	-4.89	16820.31	8775.86	4.121
Dax	3694.89	-26.80	-0.72	4458.89	2703.96	2.155

INTEREST RATES

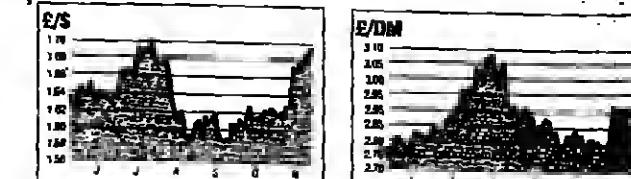


Money Market Rates	3 month	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	15 yr	20 yr	30 yr
UK	7.61	1.23	7.79	0.88	6.66	-1.05	6.47	-1.44
US	5.76	0.26	5.94	0.22	5.90	-0.32	6.15	-0.38
Japan	0.52	0.02	0.56	-0.10	1.80	-0.92	2.36	-1.01
Germany	3.71	0.53	4.12	0.79	5.60	-0.32	6.22	-0.55

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Norwich Union 357	5 BG 264 -11.09
Brit Aerospace 1090	4.83 British Land 636 -8.49
Nest 740	4.23 Reckitt and Col 652 -6.83
Guardian Royal 310.5	4.19 M&S 566 -8.45

CURRENCIES



Pound	Price	Wk's chg	Wk's chg %	10 yr	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Dollar	7.6905	+1.322	1.6426	5.87	0.88	0.66	0.47	0.6062
D-Mark	2.8838	-0.449	-2.4844	5.87	0.88	0.66	0.47	0.6062
Yen	210.09	+98.57	184.85	5.87	0.88	0.66	0.47	0.6062
£ Index	102.80	+0.60	0.90	5.87	0.88	0.66	0.47	0.6062

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Wk's chg	Wk's chg %	10 yr	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Brent Oil (\$)	19.20	-0.32	-2.03	114.00	3.90	108.7	Jan	
Gold (\$)	310.25	-1.20	-0.38	378.15	RPI	159.30	3.6	153.76
Share (\$)	4.95	0.13	4.74	Base Rates	7.25	6.00		

www.bloomberg.com source: Bloomberg

World markets restless ahead of US interest rate meeting

Financial markets could suffer a fresh bout of nerves today ahead of Wednesday's meeting where the Federal Reserve Open Markets Committee will decide whether to raise US interest rates.

In addition, the Bank of England's Inflation Report and economic figures due this week will be scoured for clues as to how much further rates might climb in the UK.

Some believe recent financial turbulence around the world guarantees the Fed will postpone raising US interest

rates. But others reckon there is still a chance of a rate rise this week on the back of evidence of growing inflationary pressure, with unemployment in America at its lowest for 25 years.

On this side of the Atlantic, last week's quarter-point rate rise will allow the Bank to forecast inflation staying on target. However, many economists believe the economy's momentum will force a further rate rise - some predict to as high as 8 per cent from today's 7.25 per cent.

There could be a market reaction to this week's figures on

retail prices, factory gate prices, and earnings and unemployment.

The Bank of England's Quarterly Bulletin, published Wednesday, will argue that the pound's appreciation can be explained by the expectation of rising interest rates. This strengthens the case for down-playing the strong pound so as to justify not increasing the cost of borrowing any further.

The Bulletin article looks at past episodes of sudden changes in the exchange rate, including a jump last spring after the pub-

lication of figures showing a drop in unemployment and an increase in earnings growth.

In this case, a rise in the exchange rate now will be reversed later and is less likely to have much impact on the real economy.

The research also established that, in 1996, as the financial markets came to expect the single European currency to go ahead with many members, investors bid up the pound because the UK was seen as less likely to join.

- Diane Coyle

19/ECONOMICS

THE INDEPENDENT
MONDAY
10 NOVEMBER 1997



**GAVYN
DAVIES
ON WHY
MONETARY
POLICY
SHOULD BE
TIGHTENED**

Bank of England has not done enough

The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee took its first difficult decision last week when it raised interest rates by 0.25 per cent in the face of stock market turbulence and a rising exchange rate. Despite criticism, the move was overdue. In fact, the freeze in base rates announced in August was a mistake.

Here are seven key points that describe the policy dilemma today.

First, there has been no sign that the recent break-neck growth in the economy is slowing down. Ever since this time last year, the economy has been expanding, on the official GDP statistics, at a rate of 1 per cent per quarter, or 4 per cent per annum. This rate may have stopped accelerating during the summer, but it is almost double the rate of growth which can be safely sustained in the UK economy over any lengthy period.

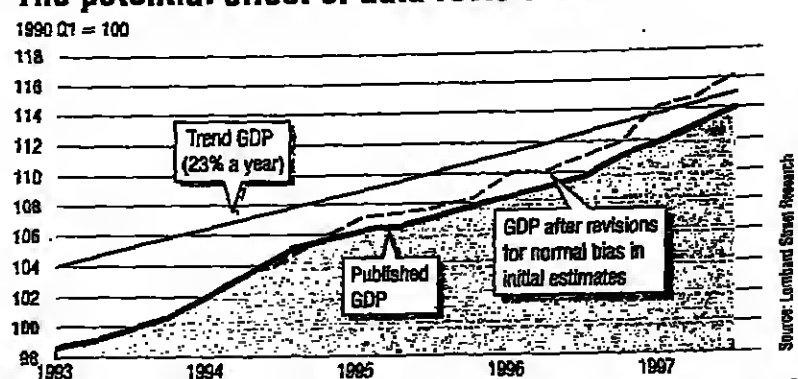
Second, the economy is now running out of spare capacity. It is one thing for GDP to grow rapidly at a time when there are plenty of spare resources - machinery and people - standing idle in the UK. It is quite another for the growth rate to exceed its normal pace at a time when spare resources are limited. That is the case at present. The graph shows what would have happened to GDP if it had grown at its normal trend rate of 2.3 per cent per year during the 1990s. Four years ago, the published level of GDP was around 5 per cent below this trend, so there was plenty of scope for a safe period of rapid growth. Now, however, the published GDP number has returned almost exactly to trend. And, more impor-

tant, we must never forget that subsequent data revisions are likely to be in an upwards direction. The genuine level of GDP is therefore already above trend, suggesting that resources are under strain.

Third, this conclusion is supported by business surveys. The CBI series on capacity utilisation has been substantially above its mid-cycle level for more than two years. More worrying, there has been a sharp increase in the number of firms reporting a shortage of skilled labour. Again, this shows up clearly in the CBI survey. In the past, such sharp increases have been a worrying sign for the monetary authorities. Around 17 per cent of all firms are reporting skilled labour shortages, a figure last seen during 1987. And the trend is very rapidly upwards, as it also was during 1987. In 1987, those and other labour market signals should have induced the monetary authorities to raise interest rates. They create a strong presumption in the same direction now.

Fourth, it must be admitted that there are factors pointing in the other direction, and which suggest the economy may well slow of its own accord during 1998. The most important restraining factor is the strength of sterling and the impact this is having on export orders. According to the CBI survey, export optimism has dipped to levels only previously plumbed during the depths of the ERM crisis and during the early years of Margaret Thatcher's government. Although actual exports sales in the official trade statistics have remained reasonably robust, past relationships with the CBI survey suggest there should be a

The potential effect of data revisions on GDP



collapse in export growth before long. This will put a significant dampener on the economy next year.

Fifth, spending by the Government is, at the moment, under very tight control. Last November Kenneth Clarke published a set of public spending plans which most commentators said was so austere as to be implausible. Before the election, Gordon Brown said he would stick to these plans for the first two years of a Labour Government. So far this year, the new Government does seem to have been able to stick to the spending limits, and it seems likely that there will be little or no growth in real public spending over 1997 or 1998. Like exports, this will also be a strong dampener on economic growth.

Sixth, despite the rise in sterling and the tightness of fiscal policy, there is a severe danger that the buoyant consumer

will keep the boom going next year. And there are signs that underlying inflation pressures in the economy are beginning to increase. This is not shown as yet in the behaviour of the retail price inflation rate, excluding mortgages, which continues to rise at the 2-3 per cent underlying rate we have seen ever since 1993. However, the Goldman Sachs leading indicator for inflation has been rising sharply for some time, after dipping significantly when the Bank of England last raised the base rates in 1994/95. Reported inflation data may remain subdued for a while longer, but the underlying trends in the labour market and elsewhere are pointing to a danger of inflation exceeding its 2.5 per cent target rate in the years ahead. This is why higher base rates were, and still may be, needed.

Seventh, this monetary tightening could continue to have an unwelcome ef-

fect on the exchange rate. According to the Goldman Sachs equilibrium exchange rate model, the GSDEER, sterling is already about 16 per cent undervalued against the German mark. No one would like to see this overvaluation become any larger, but a rise in inflation would be even less welcome. The UK is following an inflation target, not an exchange rate target, and this means unwelcome fluctuations in sterling will occur. Now is one of those times. Sterling is likely to remain strong until there is clear evidence the economy has slowed down. It is quite likely that sterling will fall during 1998 and it may even be close to its fair value of about 2.50 against the DM by the end of next year, but this fall is unlikely to gather any momentum until GDP growth has dropped. This has not happened yet.

The only significant factor pointing the other way last week was the danger of exacerbating the global turbulence in financial markets by announcing a British interest rate rise. But the UK is tucked away on the fringes of world events, with the economy largely unaffected by the turmoil in Asia and the cycle here untypical of that in the rest of the world. The Bank's move could be seen as an isolated event, with no connotations for the globe.

One last point. The economy has looked quite serene in recent times, but this may be an illusion. In the past, at this stage of the economic cycle, large policy mistakes have typically been made. The failure to tighten monetary policy early enough in the past year means that the same may be happening again.

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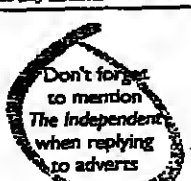
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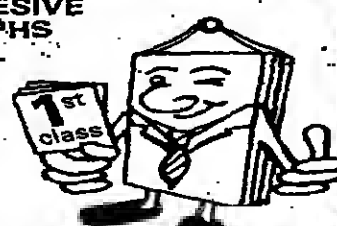


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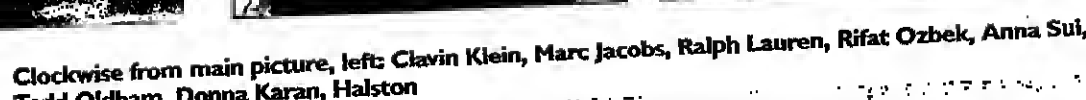


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The catwalk of extremes: super-straight or just weird



Great designers in New York do not make fashion. The clothes are way down in the priority list. First comes volume of sales. Second comes corpor-

Unlike fashion in Paris, Milan and London, mainstream fashion in New York is about brand-name knickers, tights and T-shirts for everyone. In this city you are applauded if you send a T-shirt down the runway. But not any old T. Only cashmere will do (or cashmink, if the label reads Mark Jacobs). If you hadn't paid £1,000 for the suit or £300 for the silk jogging top, you would think them totally unremarkable.

"Everything is looking the same," said Paul Smith, in town to show his womenswear collection. "It's all marketing led." Smith's Mediterranean de-luxe collection featured better tailoring than anything on the American catwalks. Many pieces are hand-finished for individuality.

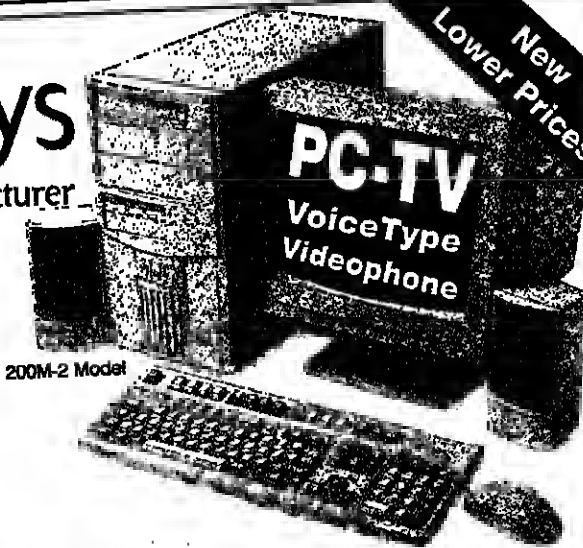
"How can I compete when Jigsaw has a John Pawson shop in Bond Street? I want to make clothes that are hard to imitate."

Todd Oldham, who is also responsible for the German label Escada, uses his own label to show an aimless mishmash of glamour clothes more fit for drag queens than for real women. Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins and Julia Roberts seemed impressed, though Sarandon mouthed the word "unbelievable" as a long, silver dress, beaded top to toe in a five-hundredweight of metal splinters, worked its way down the runway. She said it.

Clockwise from main picture, left: Calvin Klein, Marc Jacobs, Ralph Lauren, Rifat Ozbek, Anna Sui, Todd Oldham, Donna Karan, Halston

From The Award Winning British PC Manufacturer

Take a closer look at our new range of 'Best Buy' high performance systems, now available at truly amazing prices.



- Intel Pentium 233MHz Processor with MMX Technology
- 32mbt EDO RAM
- 3.2Gb Seagate EIDE hard drive
- 4Mb ATi Rage II 3D graphics
- 16 speed MAX LG CD-ROM drive
- Creative Labs soundblaster 32
- 14" SVGA 0.28dp screen
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- NAPT mid-tower system unit with 7 bays (not shown) and Intel 430HX chipset
- All standard features below
- Preloaded software bundle (mail & antivirus not included)
- FREE 33.6 voice modem
- FREE Epson Stylus 300 color Inkjet Printer (limited to first 10 customers who buy this model)

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- IBM eServer/PC200 Processor with MMX Technology (higher performance than 733M system)
- 64MB EDO RAM
- 4.3Gb Seagate ultra ATA hard drive
- PC-TV system with Teletext and video capture
- 56K Rockwell voice modem
- 4MB AT Rage IIr DVD 3D graphics
- 24 megs IBM L2 CD-ROM drive
- 24 megs IBM Labs 3D waveable sound
- 14" SVGA C.28dp screen (1.5" E720 +VAT = £82.25 extra; 17" E220 +VAT = £258.50 extra)
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- Videophone receive for incoming videophone calls
- Voice recognition with IBM Simply Speaking GOLD
- MUN ATX system with Intel 430TX PC97 chipset
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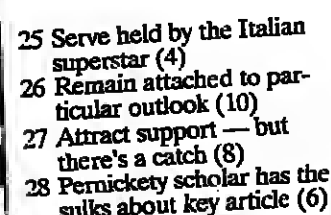
- Intel Pentium 233MHz Processor
- Maths Technology
- 640K EDO RAM
- 6.4Gb Seagate ultra ATA hard drive
- PC-TV system with Teletext and video capture
- 56K Rockwell voice modem
- AMR All Page II+ DVO 3D graphics
- 24 speed MAX LG CD-ROM drive
- Creative Labs 3D wavetable sound
- 14" SVGA 0.28dp screen (15" £720
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- Video digitization with IBM Simplex Sampling GOLD
- MUN ATX system with IBM 330T PC97 chipset
- All standard features below

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- Intel Pentium II 266MHz Processor with MMX Technology
- 64MB SDRAM
- 6.4Gb Seagate ultra ATA hard drive
- PC system with Teletext and video capture
- 56K Rockwell voice modem
- 3Dfx AGP ATI Rage Pro 3D graphics
- 24 speed MAX L6 CD-ROM drive
- Creative Labs 3D waveable sound
- 14" SVGA 2.82dp screen (15" £70
- +VAT = £82.25 extra; 17" £220
- +VAT = £258.50 extra)
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- VideoPhone receive for incoming videophone calls
- Voice recognition with IBM Simple Speaking GOLD
- PC321 system with Intel 440LX PC321 chipset
- All standard features below

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No. 3452 Monday 10 November

By Portion

- 3 Giant constellation? (5)
- 3 Knock out drink is mixed
in it (5,4)
- 4 About to create improve-
ment (6)
- 5 Tossed aside? (9,6)
- 6 Rider lay injured, and in a
sad way (8)
- 7 Sounds like difficult prob-
lems the county (5)
- 8 Quarter of sum I need to
renovate classical figures
(9)
- 14 Double round square to
look out for bird (5)
- 16 Beat veteran to the start-
ing place (9)
- 17 Lost completely offshore
(3,2,3)
- 20 Provoke one to anger at
the finish (4,2)
- 22 Admit American's mean
about money (5)
- 23 Wreck removed

ACROSS

1 Horrid woman for each poet (6)
5 Set meal? (2,6)
9 Greek character's playing on a loud instrument (10)
10 It's said to pour out of English river (4)
11 I want her organisation to be exactly as it is (2,3,3)
12 Outfit's wroog to get involved in rebellious action (6)

- 13 Previously accepted individual rate of exchange (4)
- 15 Very comfortable fit not yet achieved (4-2-2)
- 18 Head of police put down after vile murder (4,4)
- 19 Move quickly to squeeze Conservative out (4)
- 21 Mark a festival back in Spain (6)
- 23 Girl in the new year's to become courier (8)

16 Beat veteran to the start-
ing place (9)
17 Lost completely offshore
(3,2,3)
20 Provoke one to anger at
the finish (4,2)
22 Admit American's mean
about money (5)
24 Navy wreck removed

Coming from the top fin
you may target but
But just as
Easily
can we take you to
Geneva another bank-
ing place, or Basel, to
charming commercial
dry, where Swissair
not Zurich, and

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£ 1173.⁸³ Inc. VAT
Model: 788

£ 1256.⁰⁸ Inc. VAT
Model:770

£ 1408.⁸³ Inc. VAT
Model: 789

£ 18/8.⁸³ Inc. VAT
Model: 790

Standard Features: Windows 95, Lotus SmartSuite 97, Quicken, Pressworks, DesignWorks, Homewize, Lotus mail, EMU Antivirus and Smartrips preloaded. Soundtrio \$25 mainboard, 16MB speaker system, 3.5" 1.44MB floppy drive; PS/2 mouse; 105 card; software MPEG; Yr 2000 compliant BIOS; PS/2 mouse port, fast serial port, parallel port and games port, 1 year warranty extended to 3 or 5 years.

Note:- Microphone not included (included with PLUS models only)

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or FAX - \$151.59 inc. VAT (select required cable option).

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APR

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All prices exclude delivery (£25-£30). Software applications are provided on CD or pre-installed on on-line documentation. System tests include two hours in the laboratory package. Full source code is available for £95 per application. All software is licensed for one user. Licenses can be purchased for up to 10 users at £750 per user. Prices are subject to change without notice. We accept no liability for our conduct of sale. Goods are normally dispatched within 7 to 10 days. All rights will be fulfilled when 285 units overseas modified. Applications, prices and availability are subject to change without notice. We accept no liability for our conduct of sale. Copies of which are available on request. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMIO is a trademark of Intel Corporation. The MMIO logo is a registered trademark of MMIO Technology Limited. E60E.

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.